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THE SPECTATOR

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BIOTOUR: NOT YOUR AVERAGE SCHOOL BUS

PHOTO BY LEXI NISITA '12

The BioTour bus travels across the country spreading environmental awareness. The bus runs on two tanks, a biodiesel starter tank and a larger tank of waste vegetable oil.

BioTour Comes to Campus, Broadcasts Green Message

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

The first change I noticed on Martin's Way was the music. Folk at first, then changing to soft rock and roll, it came from the speaker attached to the roof of the giant blue bus parked out in front of the Kirner-Johnson Building. The bus was the second thing I noticed.

Flash back two and a half years. Ethan Burke, Alan Palm and four of their friends are interested in taking a road trip across the nation from Massachusetts to Wyoming, and they don't want to have to pay for gas along the way. Although their friend, Maya Stiles-Royall, tells them they are crazy, they decide to fit an old school bus with modifications to run on waste vegetable oil from restaurants.

Tuesday, when I approached the bus, Burke and Palm were there welcoming students to what has become their traveling home and the center of their life for over two years. "My bus is your home, at least for the afternoon," quipped Palm when one student asked if he could go aboard.

Strangely enough, Stiles-Royall is there as well, having joined the project after graduating from Yale last year. "I never thought they'd still be going after two years," she admits. "It's inspiring."

Palm explains how a simple cross-country journey became a mission. "The bus kept breaking down that first summer, and we'd find ourselves in church parking lots, truck stops and curious people would start asking us questions," he said. Eventually, Burke and Palm decided to adjust the technology on the bus so it ran more smoothly and take the bus back on the road specifically to generate these discussions.

Today, the pair has two buses

*see **BioTour,** page 16*

CEC Task Force to Determine Ideal Building Location

by Daniel Steinman '12
News Writer

The Cultural Education Center Task Force is working to realize one goal of the 2009 Strategic Plan. The Task Force, composed of students, professors and administrators, will "evaluate the reallocation of existing space for the creation of a cultural education center."

Divided into two subcommittees, the task force is currently gathering information from cultural organizations on campus to determine how much space might be needed, as well as contacting colleges that have similar centers on their campuses to find out how the space might best be used. The task force's goal is to draft a report of its conclusions for the Board of Trustees, acting Dean Joseph Urgo and President Nancy Thompson by mid-March.

Edwin Gaston '11, vice president of Student Assembly and member of the task force, explained, "We are going to let the [student] community decide how to best utilize the space." Most likely, space will be attributed to cultural groups based on size of membership and frequency of their activity. Gaston emphasized that all planning is in its early stages and no decisions are being made yet, but he suggested a number of options that are being explored with the input of Associate Director of Physical Plant William Huggins.

The task force is considering a number of possibilities, including constructing an addition onto the Afro-Latin Cultural Center or combining two existing buildings on College Hill Road after the renovated and expanded ELS frees up that space.

Gaston approximated the size of a cultural education center might be about the size of the KJ Commons, and may include an open area and classrooms. "We are trying to incorporate an academic aspect as well," he said. "We want to support various learning styles of culture."

The task force held its first public meeting on Monday, Feb. 22. Several students from different campus organizations attended, including members of the Student Justice Initiative, Black Latino Student Union, The Brothers Organization and Rainbow Alliance, among others. Students who attended the meeting expressed concern that more student groups were not involved and that constituencies of marginalized students were left out of the discussion.

Denise Ghartley '12, another member of the task force, described the conversations at the meeting as "very positive" and stressed the task force's intent to include any concerned student groups in the process. More meetings are scheduled for Mondays at 5 p.m. in room 203 of Root Hall. A campus-wide e-mail will be sent out to notify students beforehand.

ACS Rings In Lunar New Year With Big Bang

by Julia Mulcrone '11
News Writer

On Friday, Feb. 20 the Asian Cultural Society (ACS) celebrated the Lunar New Year with its annual celebration in the Tolles Pavilion (Annex). Celebrated throughout many countries in Asia, the Lunar New Year is a festival that marks the advent of the New Year based on the Chinese calendar. This year, the holiday commemorated the beginning of the Year of the Ox, one of 12 animal designations in the Chinese cycle of years. The event was well attended by the Hamilton community, and featured traditional food and performances.

Although Lunar New Year festivities traditionally span 15 days, members of the ACS condensed the traditions of the holiday into one Friday night celebration. The paper lanterns and red and yellow streamers hanging throughout the space reflected traditional Chinese decorations.

Upon entrance to the event, guests received a red envelope containing candy, similar to the envelopes full of money (known as *hung bao* in Mandarin) given to children in celebration of the New Year.

ACS Social Co-Chair Yi Fang '10 said, "In terms of festivities, this [was] equal to what one may find in Asia. All we were missing [was] some fireworks."

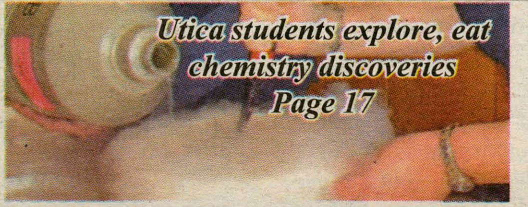
During an appetizer of dumplings and pancakes, event MCs Jai Moorjani '09 and Grace Liew '12 discussed Lunar New Year traditions, including widespread superstitions regarding the danger of wearing black or of getting a haircut during the period of New Year celebration.

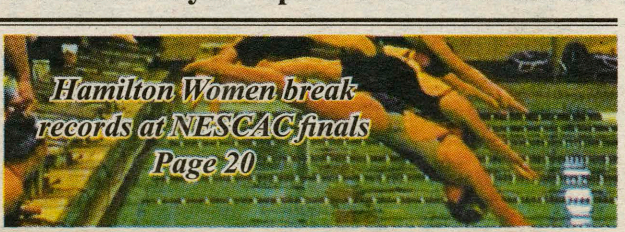
Afterwards, the audience enjoyed a series of performances by

*see **New Year,** page 2*

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Performers drive away evil spirits with the lion dance.





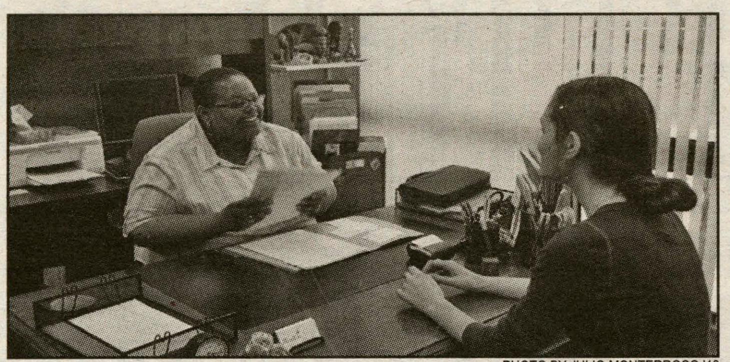


PHOTO BY JULIO MONTERROSO '10

A student meets with her advisor to plan her schedule.

Advising Review Update

by Haley Riemer-Peltz '12
News Writer

The most recent Strategic Plan called for a review of the current advising system in order to continue challenging students to acquire a broad liberal arts education. The Strategic Plan committee established a task force last month to discuss ways to improve the current advising process.

The task force, lead by Professor Steven Yao, is working with the Committee on Academic Policy to review the main issues regarding advising and curricular policies. Some of the discussion points listed on the Strategic Plan update were "a concern about disparities in advising, a decline in the number of students taking courses with a quantitative literacy component, a rise in average grades, a perception that department offerings and student curricular choices favor depth over breadth, and the ability of juniors and seniors to enroll in courses outside their concentration."

"At our first meeting we discussed the main ideas and goals for the committee by trying to clearly identify the problems of advising as well as thinking about advising in a broad way, where students have the opportunity to establish a relationship with their advisor," commented task force committee member, Mariana Vinacur '09. "Our committee also discussed the differences and repercussions of pre-major advising and specific concentration advising."

Professor Yao reports that although no change is certain yet, "we are in the process of gathering data and impressions about the current system."

Mock Trial Advances to Finals

Places Fourth out of Eight at Syracuse Regional Competition

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

After a fourth place finish out of eight teams at the regional tournament in Syracuse last weekend, Hamilton Mock Trial has officially qualified to compete in the opening round of national competition. This preliminary round of a two-tiered finals process will take place at Lafayette College in Easton, PA on the weekend of March 13-15.

At the regional competition, two teams of Mock Trial members presented based on a case provided in September by the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA). The teams have been hard at work on the case since the fall, with students playing the roles of both the defense and prosecuting attorneys and witnesses on each team. The hard work has evidently paid off.

"We had a fantastic trial against Cornell's best team at Syracuse this past weekend," said Evan Klondar '11, co-captain of one mock trial team. "It was by far the most difficult trial of the year – they have some of the best lawyers and best witnesses in the country on their team. Going in, I was really nervous; I wasn't sure we'd be able to compete with them, but we hung in with them the whole trial."

Mock trial tournaments pit school teams against each other and allow each team to argue multiple sides of a given case in front of judges, who decide which school's team won each trial.

"At a competition each team will have four trials, two for each side of the case," explained Casey Green '09, co-captain of a team. "Each trial has two judges so a perfect score at a tournament is eight ballots. That means that every judge in every round believed that your side won. At regionals my team won six ballots, lost one, and tied one."

Though only one out of two Hamilton teams qualified for nationals, all of the students on Mock Trial benefited from the learning process behind the competition. The process of preparing for a case forces them to work as a cohesive group in the courtroom and understand the facts and arguments of the case from multiple perspectives. Many come out of mock trial competitions better public speakers and critical thinkers.

"Personally, it's made me a much better public speaker and given me the confidence to do just about anything on my feet," said Klondar '11. "Most of the 'judges' in Mock Trial are actual

see Mock Trial, page 3

PHOTO COURTESY CASEY GREEN '09

Hamilton Mock Trial advanced to the national competition.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

A Syracuse Kung Fu group demonstrated drills and training exercises in the Annex.

New Year Performances a Hit

from New Year, page 1

Syracuse Kung Fu, a local branch of Yee's Hung-Ga International Kung Fu Association. Led by instructor Sharif Bey, the performers began with a traditional lion dance. Two dancers at a time performed the dance, said to drive away negative spirits wearing a traditional over-sized lion's head and tail costume, backed by a chorus of cymbals and drums. The eight performers regularly switched between dancing and playing the percussion instruments.

The group then demonstrated kung fu, or Chinese martial arts, in a series of drills and training exercises which focused on the skill involved. Towards the end of the demonstrations, Divij Mathew '09 was selected from the audience to attempt some of the training exercises with Bey. In regards to the entire performance, Justin Caldwell '10 said, "Although the choreography didn't seem sharp, it was extremely impressive. It was fun to watch."

After these performances, the guests partook in the buffet of traditional Korean food which included chicken teriyaki, stir-fried pork and stir-fried vermicelli. Secret Garden, a restaurant in Syracuse, catered the event. According to ACS Co-Chair Sitanshu Mishra '10, "There was no food left at the end and many people came up for seconds." He attributes the overall success of the event to the "hard work and dedication of many of our members."

Phillip Lowery '12 said that he really enjoyed the celebration, adding, "Next time I want to see the lion eat people." Despite this minor complaint, the Lunar New Year Celebration was an enjoyable event for all and a great opportunity for the Hamilton Community to participate in a traditional Lunar New Year celebration.

Student Assembly

Coalition Reports; Diner

by Ezra Rosenberg '10
News Editor
Student Assembly Representative

Coalition on Sexual Violence:

The coalition has been discussing a potential educational workshop. The workshop would educate students about sexual violence issues at Hamilton and work to raise awareness of alcohol's potential role in sexual violence. The coalition discussed the workshop with several Greek society presidents, who would support requiring the workshop for pledges. This workshop would occur during spring semester prior to pledging. The coalition is also working on an orientation workshop for first year students. A project to gather new data on sexual assault at Hamilton is also in the works. No statistics have been gathered since 2001 The next coalition meeting is March 9 at 4:00 p.m. in Root 203. E-mail cmwillia@hamilton.edu with any questions or suggestions.

Alcohol Coalition Student-Only Town Hall Meeting:

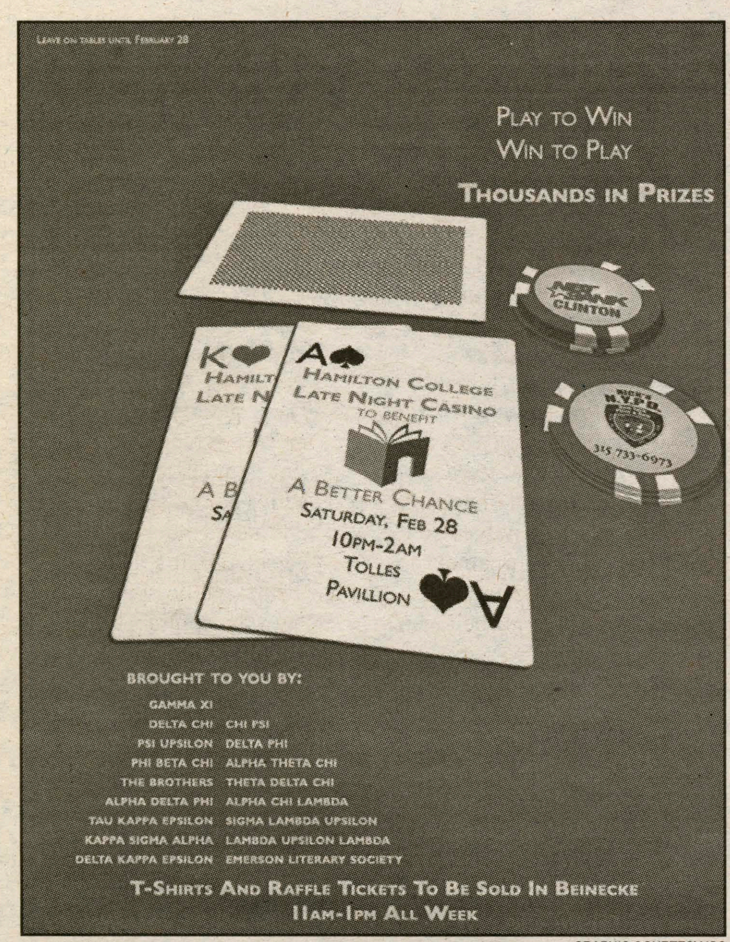
This student-only meeting to discuss the drinking culture and alcohol issues at Hamilton is open to all students and will take place March 4 at 7 p.m. in the Science Center Auditorium.

Funding:

Student Assembly unanimously approved $8,535.85 in funding. A new student organization called the Muay Thai Society received $1,547.10 for practicing Muay Thai, which is a martial arts form from Thailand. Curling Club received $1,808.75 for another trip. Diversity and Accessibility received $5,190 to bring two comedians to campus.

Facilities and Food:

Bagged lunches are available from 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Diner. Students can cut the line and request one at the register. The Howard Diner will have macaroni and cheese as a special side on Wednesdays. Ice cream and cereal survey results are out. SA is creating a separate "Special Diet" committee to make sure that there are meal choices available for vegetarians, vegans, and people with certain allergies. E-mail food@hamilton.edu if interested.



GRAPHIC COURTESY ISC

Saturday's Casino Night brings together many campus organizations to benefit A Better Chance House Program.

by Martin E. Connor Jr. '09
Editor Emeritus
ISC President

This Saturday Feb. 28 from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. the Tolles Pavilion will play host to a full-Annex Casino Night fundraiser to benefit the ABC House program.

The Casino night will feature games including Texas Hold'em Poker, Blackjack, Roulette and Craps. Entry will be free. Every participant will receive $5,000 in play money upon arrival and can later exchange their winnings for prizes that include a flat screen television, an iPod touch and a Nintendo Wii. In addition, there will be a raffle featuring prizes from over 20 local businesses. The event will also feature food provided by Nick's New York Pizza and Deli and a performance by the Saxophone Ensemble and Space Copter, a campus band.

A number of campus organizations are sponsoring the Clinton ABC House Fundraiser. Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Delta Chi, Theta Delta Chi, Sigma Lambda Upsilon, Lambda Upsilon Lambda, Alpha Chi Lambda, Delta Phi, Chi Psi, Kappa Sigma Alpha, Delta Chi, Gamma Xi, Alpha Delta Phi, Phi Beta Chi, Psi Upsilon, Delta Kappa Epsilon, The Brothers, and the Emerson Literary Society are all teaming up with Student Activities and the President's Office to make the event possible.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Clinton ABC House. The ABC House program provides high school students from underprivileged urban neighborhoods with the opportunity and means to attend good public and private high schools. Students are given a place to live and access to support programs like tutoring. Hamilton has worked closely in the past to support the ABC House program and Hamilton students regularly volunteer as tutors for the Clinton House.

Hamilton Supports Annual Utica Heart Run and Walk

by Alicia Wright '10
News Writer

Perched high atop College Hill, the Hamilton community strives to remain active in community events in the Utica area. What better way to show support for the greater community than by banding together against the number one killer of Americans, heart disease?

Each year, Hamilton students and faculty participate in the Utica Heart Run and Walk. Sponsored by the American Heart Association, the fundraiser occurs across the nation in 750 different locations. Utica, though a small city in comparison to some of the other participating metropolitan communities, ranks fourth in participation, following Seattle, Dallas and Detroit, with over 8,000 walkers or runners. This year's event will be held on Saturday, Mar. 7, starting from Utica College.

This year, Team Hamilton College is led by Lecturer in Music Colleen Pellman, Professor of French John O'Neal and Professor Ernest Williams. Last year, Team Hamilton, comprised of sports teams, Greek organizations, and individual students, faculty and staff, raised over $5,000 for the cause. The goal this year is to raise $1,285,000 for the whole event.

This year's campus goal, however, is not monetary. Instead, the team calls for more campus participation than previous years.

The sisters of Phi Beta Chi signed up for the Utica Heart Run and Walk to help increase the numbers representing Hamilton at the event. "This is our first year running or walking in the event," President Jennifer Whitman '10 said, "and we are excited to experience it!"

The Utica Heart Run and Walk helps reinforce the bond between the city and college as well as adding to the sense of community already felt on campus. "I enjoy participating in events like these because they make me feel part of a greater community," said Co-Captain O' Neal, "and because this is a particularly worthwhile cause."

"It is always nice to see the community rally together for a worthwhile cause," noted Dave Lichtstein '10, president of Delta Kappa Epsilon, a participating fraternity. "The Walk just has a great environment. Al Ham always makes an appearance," he said, "and it is cool to see Hamilton joining together with the community."

Co-Captain Pellman walks in memory of her father and father-in-law. "Almost every person knows a family member or friend who has been affected by heart disease," she said.

Heart disease kills more people per year than all cancers combined. Funds earned through the Heart Run and Walk go towards research, public health education and training, and community services. Even more, some of the money earned for the Utica event stays in the Mohawk Valley.

Walkers and runners in the event pay or raise $25 to walk in the 3 or 5 mile events or to run in the 3, 5, 10 or 18 mile events. Registration forms can be found the Science Center Atrium, the Blood Fitness Center, the Mail Center and Cafe Opus 2, or students can register online at www.uticarunwalk.org. All participants must pre-register for the event on Tuesday, Mar. 3 in Beineke from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The first 75 people to pre-register receive free "Hamilton College Has Heart" t-shirts.

"When people sponsor me I have them sign my shirt so they feel they are participating," says Professor Williams. The Utica Heart Run and Walk serves to unite the entire campus with Utica and its surrounding areas, no matter whether students, faculty and staff run, walk or donate.

Mock Trial Places Fourth at Syracuse

from Mock Trial, page 1

are actual lawyers, or even real judges, and they say we know more about legal procedure than many practicing lawyers – it's pretty good practice if one ever intends to go into litigation."

Mock Trial is beneficial even for those who do not intend to go into law after graduation.

"Although I have decided not to become a lawyer," said Green, "Mock Trial has given me public speaking and argument skills as well as self-confidence. These are skills that I will use in any profession I go into."

Those competing at Nationals are Casey Green '09, Larry Allen '09, Teddy McBride '10, Evan Klondar '11, Andrew Quinney '11, Mike Nguyen '11, Antonia Farzan '11, Caitlin Tuten-Rhodes '12 and Julia Goldstein '12. They will face tough competition from some of the nation's strongest Mock Trial teams like Cornell, Syracuse, and Penn State.

Professor Bradfield Explains Personal Finance to Students

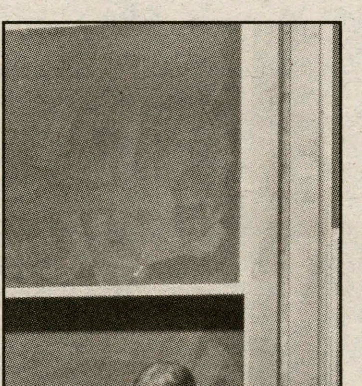


PHOTO BY DANIEL HAGEMEIER '12

by *Spectator* News Editors

On Wednesday, Feb. 25 students packed Science Center room 3024 to hear Professor of Economics James Bradfield impart practical advice about personal finance. Bradfield outlined a number of strategies many of which related to investing in the stock market.

"The secret to the stock market is that there is no secret," said Bradfield. He stressed that even if someone believes they know how to outperform the market, in reality they do not. Throughout the night, Bradfield emphasized that, "Trading is hazardous to your wealth." He advocated a buy and hold strategy as opposed to actively trading your money.

Other advice included investing in an Index Fund to diversify your portfolio, but splitting up the fund between a standard index of smaller firms and an overseas portfolio. Bradfield explained that there is a 20-year cycle to investment. College graduates should invest their money now in a mutual or index fund because in 20 years they will reap the benefits of a higher rate of return due to compounding interest.

In terms of the housing market, Bradfield warned that owning a house is the same as forgoing the money you could borrow against a house. If homeowners don't pay off their house, they can continue to borrow money off the house to invest in the market. This strategy allows investors to make money by attaining interest with higher returns than the interest they would pay on a mortgage to the bank.

Richard Masse Co-Chair of the Student Assembly Student Interest Committee, which sponsored the event, said, "People were appreciative and found Professor Bradfield's advice helpful and comforting because not even the most brilliant economic minds know how to play the market." Bradfield concluded by joking that the safest thing to do is to give all your money to him.

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Greek Life Living Up to Pledge

It is easy to stereotype the Greek societies, especially during pledging season. Right or wrong, many are quick to fall into traps of stereotyping, defending rumors and decrying the society system as elitist, exclusive and damaging to the greater Hamilton community. Like many groups on campus, Greek societies become easy targets for *Spectator* contributors, Daily Bull and Duel Observer satirists or just the average Hamiltonian with complaints. Some of these comments are well founded. Many seniors can remember the broken Milbank window from their freshman year. The closing and buying of fraternity houses stand as a testament to the long-standing stigma attached with Greek life on campus, extending the stigma to societies that are not Greek, like the Emerson Literary Society.

As many of us know, Greek societies *do* do a lot of good on campus and in the area surrounding our college, especially when it comes to community service. Anyone who read the all-campus e-mail announcing the fundraiser for the Clinton ABC House saw an alphabet soup of Greek letters. This weekend, no less than 15 fraternities and sororities, as well as The Brothers and ELS, are sponsoring the event. The event will raise money for A Better Chance, a program for educationally disadvantaged students from New York City who live in Clinton while attending high school. We would do well to remember that this act of charity on behalf of these societies is not an exception, nor a random act of kindness. Charity and community service compose a large, albeit often hidden, part of Greek life at Hamilton.

Many HAVOC-affiliated service programs draw from the Greek community. Sisters from Gamma Xi volunteer in a senior citizens center every week. Study Buddies, an on-campus tutoring and mentoring group, has partnerships with Kappa Sigma Alpha and Lambda Upsilon Lambda. These two sororities have made commitments to send tutors to Study Buddies every week. KSA was founded as a community service organization. Tau Kappa Epsilon holds the Andrew Sheridan '09 Chicken Wing Eating contest, and sends all the proceeds to the Andrew Sheridan Memorial Scholarship and the Underground Cafe, a youth center in Utica. On top of all this, many societies send representatives to Fall Fest, which is held every fall to encourage stronger town-gown relations.

Other Greek societies go outside Hamilton-based programs. Delta Kappa Epsilon joined the Adopt-a-Highway program, adopting sections of state road 233 from the bottom of College Hill to Old Bristol Rd. Many societies also participate in both the Great American Heart Walk in Utica and Relay For Life.

Discussions about Greek life often get heated, and many people have strong opinions about the benefits, drawbacks and possible dangers of having an active Greek community. The editorial board does not wish to weigh in on any of those debates with this piece. Instead, it is important to remind the campus community that Greek organizations do follow through on their promise of giving back to the community, and the community is better off for it.

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Face Off: Should Speakers Call Out Students?

Yes

by Lauren Magaziner '12
OPINION WRITER

Michael Ian Black attacked one Young Socialist's ideas, but he was morally within his rights to do so. No student has been through the Hamilton admissions process without hearing thousands of times that Hamilton is a top competitor in effective writing and speaking.

This creed is on almost every poster, brochure, and magazine. It is even on the website: "Hamilton, a liberal arts college with an emphasis on individualized instruction and independent research, is a national leader in teaching effective writing and persuasive speaking." Presumably, any student at Hamilton College is learning (or has learned) how to write and speak. With these skills, we should be able to explain our opinions persuasively, no matter who brings up the objection.

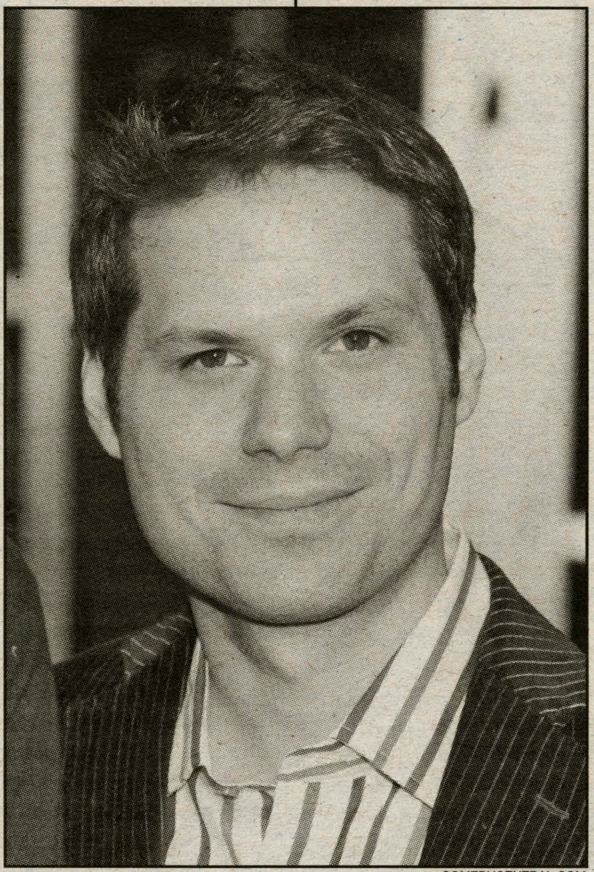
Arguing opinions with guest speakers is fundamentally no different than arguing with friends. Friends and strangers have the capabilities to challenge views in the same way—a guest speaker can say anything that a friend could say. So it seems ridiculous that it is socially acceptable for friends to challenge opinions while guest speakers cannot, when both friends and guest speakers challenge the same ideas in the same manner.

An argument against Michael Ian Black's actions is that the student could feel accosted, when only trying to see an entertaining show. However, if a person feels uncomfortable when someone challenges his views, then that person should not be writing that opinion. As a general rule, if you cannot defend something you have previously published, you should not be writing it.

Also, I firmly believe that respect for another person's opinions is shown when that opinion is challenged in a serious discussion. If someone disagrees with the views of another, it is best to try to understand them by questioning the person directly. Michael Ian Black was just debating and is within his prerogative to do so. We call in some guest speakers to entertain and others to make us think—Michael Ian Black did both.

When guest speakers like Michael Ian Black challenge our ideas, we are forced to use our intellectual and rhetorical abilities to defend our views. It is an honor that people outside the Hamilton bubble care so much about the ideas within it. It is a special honor if that student can support his point and challenge the guest speaker back with questions about his own views.

The student in question handled the Michael Ian Black attack with poise and grace. He is proof that Hamilton students can hold their own against celebrities, adults outside the bubble—anyone in the world. If a guest speaker challenges students' views, it is a mark of respect. And if that student can rise to the occasion, that is simply more evidence that Hamilton's professors are doing their job.


COMEDYCENTRAL.COM
Michael Ian Black questioned a member of the Young Socialists at his performance.

No

by Evan Klondar '11
OPINION EDITOR

Disclaimer: I did not attend the Michael Ian Black performance, so I won't make any assumptions about it.

Hamilton hosts dozens of guest speakers and performers every year. Some are here to showcase their musical talent, some are here to perform a comedy routine and yet others are here as serious intellectuals, discussing a topic that interests them. Hamilton's ability to bring in such prestigious guests is an asset to the students and faculty, but it does not give our guests license to disrespect the hospitality of the College.

All guests of the College should give individuals due deference when they interact on the Hill. It is our job, as hosts, to show hospitality and a warm welcome to our guests, and we never fail to rise to the occasion. We may not all like what a guest has to say—certainly, controversial guests have come to campus over the years. However, we always welcome our guests and listen to what they have to say, even if only with a critical ear.

Guests of the college are typically gracious and accommodating. They welcome the chance to perform in front of a Hamilton audience and almost always treat us to an engaging evening. However, some guests have stepped outside their bounds and overstepped their welcome. Most notably, comedians have singled out specific individuals for ridicule. It is not inconceivable that visiting lecturers could engage in arguments that go beyond attacking views and shift to attacking the personal credibility of students or professors.

This is not to say that guests cannot challenge our views and beliefs. That is one of the responsibilities of our guests; we should make them comfortable, but they should speak truth to us. Sometimes, their beliefs will make us uncomfortable; sometimes, they may even be wrong in their conclusions. That should not matter to us. Visitors to the College should not fear that they will be scorned, ignored or simply not invited because their views deviate from the generally accepted belief of the students and faculty.

However, there is a distinction—and an important one—between attacking College institutions and attacking individuals attending the performance. If we are doing something wrong, guests should say so and frame the mistake as the College's. It is in poor taste to call a mistake of the College, or a perceived failure of ideology, the fault of a single student or individual professor, unless the individual or group agrees to participate in a debate or discourse beforehand.

Again, this is not about avoiding challenges or closing off all debate. This is an issue of guests showing us the same respect that we always give them. We are good hosts. Our guests should be similarly polite and accommodating and not attempt to embarrass students or professors when they visit the Hill.

Extend Weekend Hours at the Health Center

by Molly Haughey '12
OPINION WRITER

The health facilities at any college should demonstrate the college's commitment to students' welfare. In order to best serve students, the health facility should be open for most, if not all, of the day and night and should have flexible scheduling in order to accommodate students with their most pressing needs. Does Hamilton fit the bill?

According to Hamilton's website, the Thomas Brown Rudd Health Center is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This means that, according to the website, the Health Center is closed every night, on weekends and on Wednesday mornings.

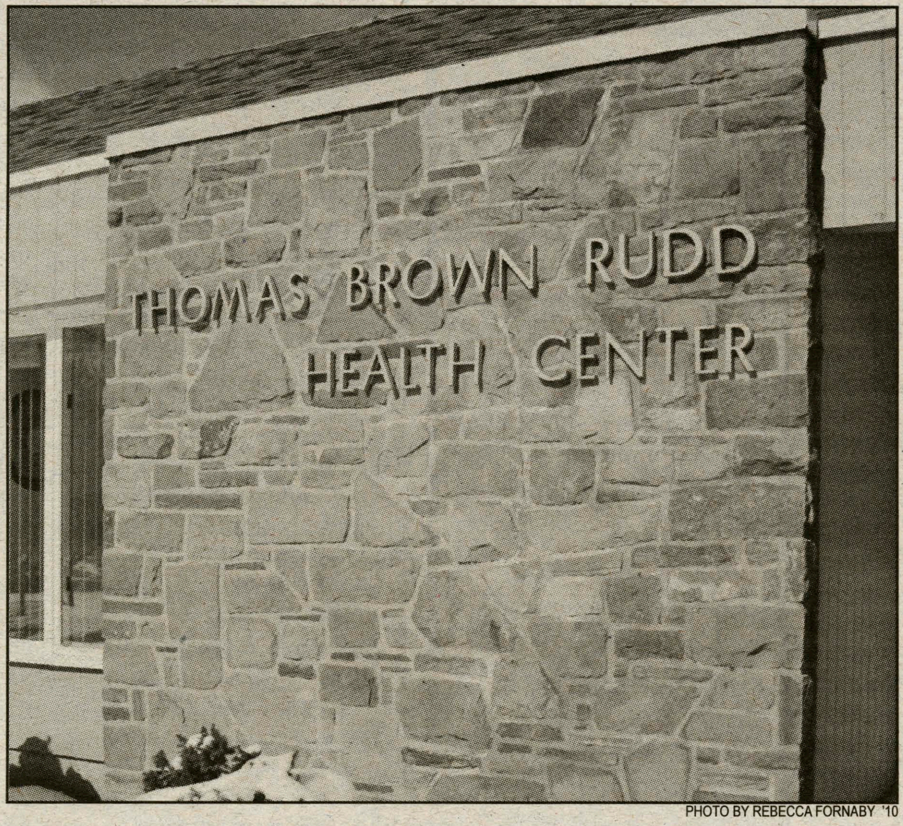


PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10
The Thomas Brown Rudd Health Center, seen here, is not always open when students are sick, thereby risking student well-being.

Illness isn't on a schedule, so why should the Health Center be? Say, for example, a student has a very upset stomach. It might be a 24 hour virus, or it might be food poisoning. One situation only calls for rest and fluids, while the other is potentially life threatening and calls for medical attention. Obviously, in either case, the student should see a medical professional in order to distinguish what the probable cause of the sickness is. If the Health Center is open, the nurse practitioner can determine whether or not the student should seek further medical assistance. If it is not open, the student has two options: travel to the emergency room and wait there for hours for what could just be a viral infection, or wait it out, potentially risking his or her life.

Students who have sustained injuries also don't benefit from the Health Center's limited hours. Lennie Specht '11 recounts an experience another student had with the Health Center: "She dislocated her arm while the Health Center was closed. She didn't want to pay the charge for the emergency room, so she just put it in a sling until Monday."

In response to cases such as these, the Health Center has expanded its hours. "It is now open Saturdays during the day from 12 to 4," says a Health Center employee, "and it's only to treat minor illnesses. No regular routine appointments can be scheduled during that time."

It is certainly helpful that the Health Center is open on Saturdays, even though just for four hours. While these Saturday hours are useful, these hours are not listed on the webpage. As previously stated, the website only lists the Health Center open Monday through Friday. If students aren't aware that the Health Center is open, how do they know that its services are available to them? Instead of the new Saturday hours being more helpful to students, they're probably just costing the school money.

Ideally, the Rudd Health Center should be open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The library is almost

*see **Health,** page 6*

Health Center Hassles

*from **Extend**, page 5*

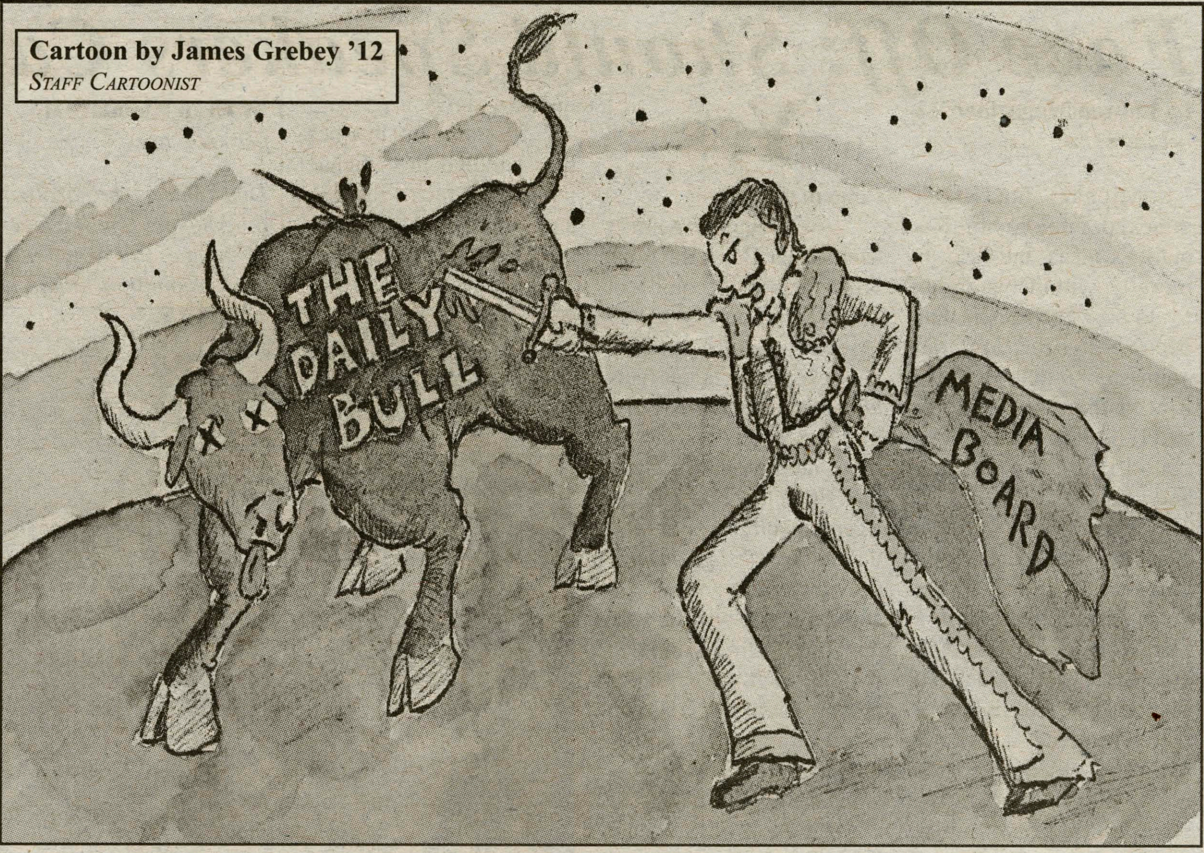
always staffed. It only makes sense that the facility providing crucial health services to students should always have a nurse practitioner available.

If this proves impossible, the Health Center should change its hours. Students should not have to wait until Monday to receive medical attention if they experience a problem Saturday night. The Health Center could reduce its hours on the weekdays and add these hours to Sunday, at the very least. A few Sunday hours would be much more valuable than staying open an extra 30 minutes every day.

"Students should not have to wait until Monday to receive medical attention for a problem Saturday night."

Students at Hamilton have the right to a high level of health care, which should be largely facilitated through the college. With the Health Center's hours as they are, I don't see how this is the reality.

Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I read with much amusement Evan Klondar's editorial in last week's Spectator critiquing the Media Board. Klondar accused several publications of using the Board's powers to "corner the market" and stifle any possible competition. Speaking as a former member of the Media Board, the idea that the Board is populated by little William Randolph Hearsts crushing all potential rivals is laughable.

The Board sets a reasonable standard for new publications, in short, that they will be viable. This entails several factors, including most importantly having a clearly articulated reason for existing (besides fluffing resumes). When a potential publication is rejected, it is done with good reason, usually because of a flawed or inadequate proposal. Klondar makes it seem like the Board has an insurmountable standard for new publications; this is patently wrong. Over the past two years, two new publications joined the Board and the previously moribund HCTV has restarted.

Klondar ignores the real reason why many of the publications on campus "corner the market." It isn't because the editors of the publications have robber baron tendencies, but rather because Hamilton can only sustain one publication in those niches. The simple fact is that there are barely enough people to run the publications that we already have, much less sustain competition. In a small campus like ours, the pool of potential staff is small. It is hard for every publication, especially the ones that publish more regularly, to generate enough content. Competition might be ideal, but it's not practical.

The staffs of every publication are hardworking people striving to produce the best publication they possibly can. They are first and foremost concerned with improving their publication. They work hard, regardless of whether they have competition or not. For example, The Spectator vastly improved last semester, long before the first issue of Dexter came out in November, because of its staff desire to push and improve itself. Likewise, many other publications have made huge leaps forwards in terms of quality, like The Wag, without a competitor.

Klondar's attitude towards the various Media Board publications illustrates a broader campus attitude many publications struggle against. The expectations students have for Hamilton publications are often unreasonable and unattainable. The staffs of all publications are extremely busy full-time college students who tend to be highly involved in various aspects of student life. There are no journalism classes or faculty advisors available to campus publications to help train their staffs. The heads of each publication must learn skills on the fly, from journalistic ethics to staff management.

I don't list these difficulties to make excuses. Publications can and must improve themselves. However, the difficulties they face are very real and unacknowledged by many critics of campus media. And despite the difficulties facing our campus publications, they compare favorably quality-wise with other publications at our peer schools.

I agree with Klondar that complacency is a huge danger for every publication, which we must constantly be on the lookout for. Likewise, I agree that there is a definite gap between publications and the students they serve, and that all publications would benefit from being more active in soliciting and listening to student critique. But suggesting more competition as a solution to the issues facing campus media is a cop-out, basically giving up on existing publication as permanently broken or not worth saving. Before we start new publications, we might want to try fixing what we have right now.

-Will Leubsdorf '10

Mr. Leubsdorf is a former Editor-in-Chief of The Duel Observer, *and a former member of the Media Board.*

To the Editor:

Hi! As a former member of The Spec Editorial board I was kind of shocked by a lack of Spec reaction to the following two quotes and more importantly the flawed ideas behind them: The first is from Daniel Steinman's 2/5/09 article discussing a faculty meeting regarding the removal of the "FF" grade and the revision of the online faculty evaluation form. "Specifically, the preamble [to the evaluation form] will not inform students that his or her anonymity may be forfeited if that student's comments are judged inappropriate." I am assuming that this means that while students will not be informed that their anonymity will be forfeited, it still will be if their comments are "judged inappropriate."

The second is from Scott Bixby's 2/13/09 news story in regards to media board finally approving funding for a publication known as "Afternoon Delight" (a clear reference to mid-day copulation in and of its self). "The reason why the Media Board had to catch up with them was to tell them that they couldn't print whatever they wanted." Earlier in the piece Mr. Bixby referred to the "scatological humor" of Afternoon Delight as a perceived barrier to receiving funding.

So here in two separate articles, we have rather blasé comments that suggest its okay to force people to: 1) not make inappropriate comments (what ever that means, but I am assuming that we are referring to language choice as opposed to idea choice) ; and 2) clean up their language in student publications.

Well, my response and what I am sure would have been the response of The Spec Editorial board when I was on it is "F*** THAT". Let me repeat myself F*** THAT. See, I just used inappropriate and scatological language to clearly and forcefully make the point that I think

*see **"Mailbag,"** page 7*

Thumbs up

Bravo, Campus Police! Hamilton students can rest easy tonight, knowing that my thieving, raping, drug-selling, racist Nissan has finally been captured and towed down to Clinton Auto Body.

Watching professors use computers: You don't have to double click every internet link, you dusty old fart.

Alcohol-free ABC Late Night casino: I'm still putting all *my* chips on someone putting all their chips, and the rest of their dinner, all over the tables.

Exploring Utica is back. That means a free meal and a free venereal disease!

Thumbs down

The weather: Even my Seasonal Affective Disorder is starting to get depressed.

Music in the Fitness Center: Nothing gets me mentally ripped to pump out that last set like Lady GaGa's immortal words, "Boys, boys, boys, we like boys in cars. Boys, boys, boys, buy us drinks in bars."

New security set-up in the library: I will never forgive you for the fact that I can no longer revel in the sight of someone getting clotheslined by a metallic arm.

Oysters in Commons: If I wanted to eat a spoiled clam, I'd go to a PBX mixer. Just kidding, those oysters were delicious.

Who cares?

ABC charity auction supported by every social organization on campus except DU, who have already fulfilled their charitable contribution by destroying the Dark Side.

Pledges: I know things are tough now, but think of how great it will be once pledging is over. You'll get to pay dues, blow your lottery number pulling freshmen, clean up after parties and get stereotyped in this column.

Swimmer guys shave their heads: Yes, because when I think of the swimmer guys, I think, "These guys just aren't creepy enough."

Whiny Darksiders

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Disclaimer: The jokes submitted in this column are based on nothing and, for the most part, are not funny. Please read them with the understanding that you are not enriching yourself in any way. If you are easily offended, or a huge b*!ch, you should avoid this column at all costs.

From the Mailbag

from Letters, page 5

To the Editor:

I read with much amusement Evan Klondar's editorial in last week's Spectator critiquing the Media Board. Klondar accused several publications of using the Board's powers to "corner the market" and stifle any possible competition. Speaking as a former member of the Media Board, the idea that the Board is populated by little William Randolph Hearsts crushing all potential rivals is laughable.

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The staffs of every publication are hardworking people striving to produce the best publication they possibly can. They are first and foremost concerned with improving their publication. They work hard, regardless of whether they have com-

Mind Your Manners!

A New Column by Emily Chapin '09 and Lindsey Wong '09

What is the proper way to deal with a crowded toaster line in Commons?

After four years of observation at Hamilton, we wise senior ladies have compiled a list of common college faux pas. We felt the need to enlighten our fellow classmates on the proper way to go about your everyday life, in hopes of improving the overall Hamilton cheer. From that Saturday night Bundy party to the Sunday morning (or afternoon) brunch to conducting yourself in Commons to wooing the hot new freshman, we've got you covered.

First off: toaster etiquette. Toasting can be a hectic and intimidating experience for many. No one likes a botched bagel in the morning or a piece of slightly dry toast. Here's a how-to-toast-a-bagel scenario.

Eye up the bagels and make your selection. Do not paw up all the other bagels; if there is another bagel in the way, please use the designated bagel tongs. Next, slice the bagel using the bagel slicer—don't even bother trying to saw through it with a knife. Patiently wait for your turn to place (not throw) your bagel into the rotating toaster. If it's rush hour, do not adjust the settings; you're just going to have to hope for the best, and you can always go back for round two.

If you see I have just placed toast in the toaster, do not slow down the belt or increase the "dark" setting to brown your bagel, unless you want to make me a new piece of toast. However, if in your absence someone has adjusted the settings and your toast is burning, you may speed up the belt to evacuate your charred bread, as long as you return the toaster to the previous settings.

Do not block out the toaster or spread station with your large-and-in-charge backpack. Take a drink loop or step way back; step forward *only* when your toasted item is done. Retrieve your toasted item and *only* yours. Do not abandon. No one likes the "bagel backup."

Now that you have your perfectly toasted bread product, slide on over to the spread station. Unless you are late for class (wake up earlier) please take a glob of desired spread, place on plate and vacate to spread at table. Don't cross contaminate spreads; some people have allergies and we don't want any deaths in Commons. Don't forget! Spreading takes place AFTER toasting. No one wants flaming butter in the toaster.

Although a seemingly simple process, these rules are pivotal to a pleasant toasting experience for all. For those of us who remember, negligent toaster use (i.e. cookies) results in loss of campus-wide toaster privileges. So be careful out there and HAPPY TOASTING!

Have a question about manners? Ask Emily or Lindsey by sending them an e-mail at echapin@hamilton.edu or lwong@hamilton.edu!

Have Opinions?

Write for the Spec's Opinion Section!

Writer's Meeting Sunday at 5 in Opus I.

Or, email eklondar or aeck.

www.hamilton.edu/PublicSpeaking
FINAL ROUND
SAT., FEBRUARY 28
AT 1 P.M.
THE CHAPEL
For additional information contact
cwphelan@hamilton.edu

2009 Hamilton
PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

THE CLARK
THE MCKINNEY
THE WARREN E. WRIGHT

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Make It Your Duty To Know!

by Ysmerlyn Baez '11
FEATURES WRITER

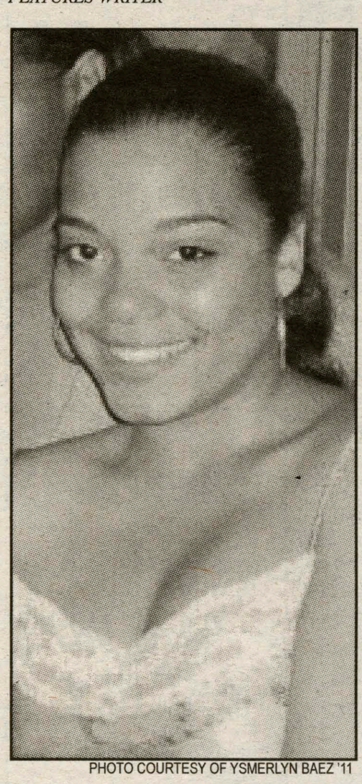


PHOTO COURTESY OF YSMERLYN BAEZ '11

Ysmerlyn is originally from the Dominican Republic.

Would you voluntarily put yourself in an awkward position that would in return allow you to improve yourself? This is the question that many "nontraditional" students have to ask themselves at Hamilton College. The Hamilton culture, environment, and lifestyle are so different from what we are used to in our hometowns. The majority of people are distinctly different than those of us considered to be part of the minority, and since there are not as many of "us," we feel that we stand out. In order to feel more comfortable, we roam around with those students who share a similar feeling of alienation. In other words, some of us choose to self-segregate in order to feel that somehow we belong.

Those of us who are courageous, adventurous, and thirsty for knowledge willingly step out of the bubble and try to learn about others. On one hand, white students can finish their education at Hamilton without ever having to touch upon the issue of race outside of an academic environment. On the other hand, students like me, a Dominican minority, have to deal with race as soon as we arrive on campus. We are forced to deal with it because we are the minority, and hence, we feel out of place in a predominantly white community.

Last week I witnessed some white Hamilton students become the minority: they were faced with the issue of race. A crowd of eighth grade students on February break were exploring campus. As a group of white Hamilton students observed these kids, I overheard their comments: "What are all these ghetto-looking people doing here?" It is understandable that in the moment people were frightened and felt uneasy by the change of the demographics in the room. Hamilton College has always been a place where whites are the majority. Now there were a large number of minorities roaming around freely. Although the outspoken Hamiltonian meant no harm with his reaction, unfortunately his choice of words hurt an innocent person.

One of the visiting African American students heard what he said and was immediately startled. He felt out of place, he felt hurt; he had never been this close to prejudice and stereotyping. How do you rationalize this kind of thinking to a kid? How do you tell him that there are ignorant people in this world and that he simply has to deal with it? How do you tell these young kids to ignore the words because it was a natural response from some Hamilton students? Do you tell them they have to put their feelings aside? How do you tell a student, who was looking to apply to Hamilton, that not everyone thinks like that here? It was hard for me to advocate a Hamilton education after the incident. It was even harder for me to try and put my emotions aside in order to ease those of the visiting students.

I do not carry the history of the United States and all its issues of race and color. I wasn't born here. But the more years I spend in this country, the more aware I am of the racial issues and invisible boundaries that still exist. Slavery was not supported by everyone in this country, but it was not that long ago in the South. Its scars are still fresh on some African Americans. I know that many people live- and have lived all their lives- in places where they don't have the opportunity to meet people of different backgrounds. I cried once with an African American friend when I realized how much of a burden and how painful it was to go through life with people judging you all the time. I have seen and talked to people who have helped me recognize my ignorance and I have helped them learn more about me and my background, and their ignorance.

It is not Hamilton College's responsibility or anybody else's to educate its students about the issue of race. It is everyone's responsibility to try and expand their knowledge, to recognize their ignorance and to no longer believe in the stereotypes that their fears create. Believe me, it's rewarding to get past stereotypes and go beyond your own barriers. Make it your duty to know!

"FROM WHERE I SIT" IS THE ESOL COLUMN THAT REPRESENTS THE NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKER'S POINT OF VIEW ON THEIR EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR FWIS PLEASE E-MAIL RFREIRE.

Going Down There... With Hair

by Johanna Pajak '09
FEATURES COLUMNIST

Compromise. Ugh. It's one of those things that sucked in kindergarten and still sucks today. While you don't have to wash your hands before snack-time anymore (although you still should) at some point or another we all have to give up little things for the sake of relationships. This week, I received a letter from a woman who feels conflicted about doing just this in the name of her sex life. She writes:

I am a straight woman and I've been with my boyfriend now for 2 months. I really like him and the sex is great but he refuses to go down on me unless I shave my pubic hair. What should I do? I really miss that part of the sexual experience but don't really know if I should be making those kinds of compromises.

-Shaggy in Schambach

Oh Shaggy, I think your plight speaks to women everywhere. Somehow hairy vaginas have become a mythic creature that haunts the nightmares of many, otherwise well adjusted, men. I think it is related to the vagina dentata of folklore in which the vagina has teeth that can be used to defend against unwanted intruders. Although it would be comforting to have a built-in security system down there, of course, none of this is true and the scary hairy vagina thing is truly just a social construct.

I wonder, has your boyfriend ever tried oral sex on a woman with pubic hair? I think he would be surprised to find that, having performed the act, he wouldn't come up looking like this:

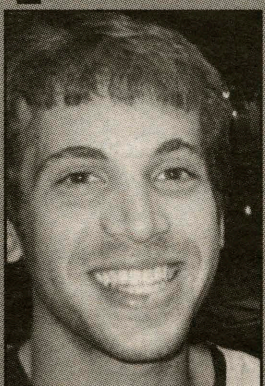
WWW.MEMBERS.SHAW.CA

If he gives it a try and still insists that your pubic hair is a deal-breaker there are a few courses of action you can take. You could (a) give up your "winter coat." Sure, it may be 15 degrees out there, but if you like your cunnilingus, then you like your cunnilingus and all that oral pleasure will keep you warm even without that extra layer. You could (b) gently suggest that if these are the new terms of agreement then he should adhere to them as well. When he realizes what it means to go bare, he might rethink his stance. If he does agree to "shear the goat," as it were, you might not want to let it go this far. An ex of mine once shaved without warning me and when I first saw it, I laughed so hard that it ruined the mood. We had to wait a couple weeks for some of it to grow back until we could recommence our sexual activity. Finally, you could (c) trade in oral sex, once and for all, in exchange for your mane. Although I'm kind of conflicted about even suggesting this, it is a viable *option.*

Really what this all comes down to is that sometimes, having sex is like buying a car: you've got to haggle. If you walk into the dealership and you really want that rack-and-pinion steering and you only want to pay $25,000, you might have to give up the remote keyless entry, or in this case, the shag upholstery. While it sounds like your boyfriend drives a hard bargain, Shaggy, if you hold out just a bit, I think you'll be cruising in no time.

Please send your thoughts to: specbetweenthesheets@gmail.com.
Names will be confidential, advice will be practical, and humor will be plentiful.

Separated at Birth?



Jakob Saidman '09

Lionel Ritchie

Got ideas? Send look-a-likes to LMOON

Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Justin Mulvey '09

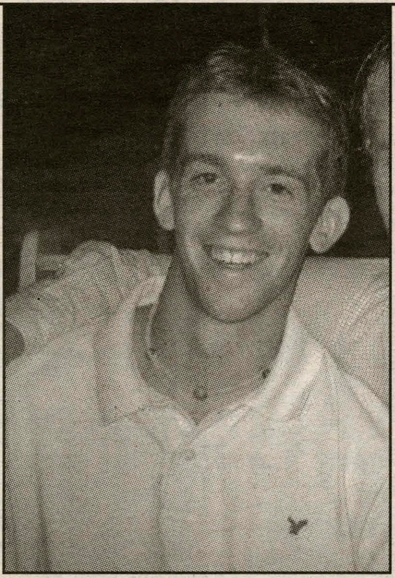


PHOTO COURTESY OFJUSTIN MULVEY '09

Class year: *2009*
Hometown: *East Greenbush, NY*
Major: *Math, Economics*
Sign: *Libra*
Turn On: *Anyone who cooks, sings, or plays an instrument*
Turn Off: *Any use of the word "princess"*
What is your worst habit?
- Spending half the day on erickuhn.com
If you were a Hamilton College dorm which would you be and why?
- Saunders – total chillfest
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
- Barry Manilow and Kelly Clarkson
If you were God, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world?
- I'd hold up a mirror to society and then win the world record for biggest mirror
What's the first word you just thought of?
- Funderful
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
- Camping out in front of the toaster in Commons when we all know your bagel isn't close to being done
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
- "Unwind" (Saranac)
If you could create a holiday what/when would it be?
- National Hangover Awareness Day – July 5
What movie genre best describes you?
- Chick flicks that transcend gender barriers, like Clueless
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
- Well, it looks like I'm the best you're gonna get tonight
If you were a Hamilton major which would you be and why?
- Psych: I'm easy and girls flock to me
If you won an award at an awards show what would it be for?
- Most heroic performance in a game of beirut
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
- Brandon Jacobs's masculinity
If you were any Hamilton social space what would it be and why?
- The Hub: It flies a little under the radar, but it's usually a decent decision
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
- Publius Society: putting "pub" in the name is just too misleading
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
- I can make some positive contributions to the Young Socialists
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
- Tough call, my eyes are dreamy, but my hair is silky smooth
What is your favorite physical feature?
- My buttocks are sublime
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?
- CamPo – the hybrid is an eco-friendly way to waste time
If you could break one rule at Hamilton for a day and get away with it which would you choose?
- Lewd behavior
What accessory best defines you?
- My EQX nalgene
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs up?
- Adirondack Porch
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs down?
- Del Mundo
Who would you say is your campus crush?
- Steph, Ari and the rest of the Pub crew
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
- James Bradfield

Erin Brown '09

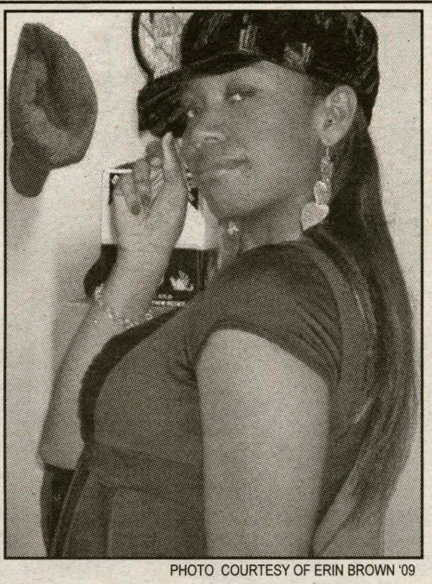
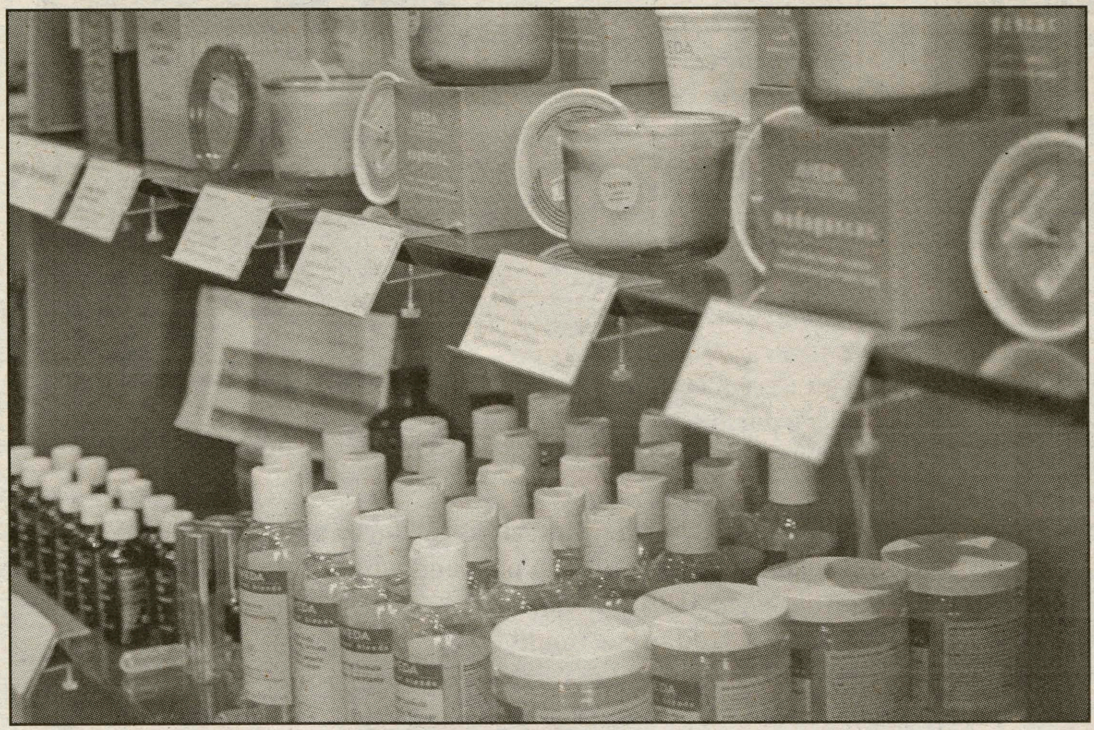


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN BROWN '09

Class year: *2009*
Hometown: *Chicago, IL*
Major: *Dance*
Sign: *Aries*
Turn On: *Personality, tall buff guys, lips and experience*
Turn Off: *Lack of.... pimples, insecurity, big mouths, liars*
What is your worst habit?
- Waking up at six in the morning every day
If you were a Hamilton College dorm which would you be and why?
- Psi U, cuz I'm high class
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
- Beyonce and Smokey Robinson
If you were God, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world?
- I would make sure every girl knows that she is beautiful
What's the first world you just though of?
- Booyachaka
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
- Cheating on your significant other
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
- "Five. Five dollar foot long...."
If you could create a holiday what/when would it be?
- Mar. 26... my birthday
What movie genre best describes you?
- Romantic comedy
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
- Wanna watch a movie?
If you were a Hamilton major which would you be and why?
- Dance.. dance is life, everything else is spare time
If you won an award at an awards show what would it be for?
- Best kiss
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
- Teleporting, I can save money on gas and airfare
If you were any Hamilton social space what would it be and why?
- Bundy dining hall, it's a great place to party but it's a little sketchy.. lol
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
- I can't choose one! I love all the groups here
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
- Alpha Chi Lambda, cuz I love my sisters!!
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
- Everything
What is your favorite physical feature?
- Five dollar foot long!!!
If you could break one rule at Hamilton for a day and get away with it which would you choose?
- I'd break all the rules
What accessory best defines you?
- Diamonds
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs up to?
- Senior Week!!!
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs down to?
- Can't believe there is no more multicultural weekend
Who would you say is your campus crush?
- Big Mo
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
- Hahahaha r u serious?
What's the weirdest thing currently in your room?
- Pine cones

Worth Getting off the Hill for: Blue Salon & Spa



ALL PHOTOS BY CHRIS EATON '11

by Sarah Bingham '12
Features Wrtier

Only a jitney ride away, Blue Salon and Spa is really a diamond in the shopping center rough. The spa is located next to Ann Taylor, just a walk across the parking lot from the movie theatre. This newly opened salon offers high-end goods and services from Aveda, a company known for it's botanically-based, environmentally-friendly makeup, skincare and hair care products.

Blue Salon was opened in September 2008—a tough time for any fledgling business. However, they have enjoyed a flourishing first few months; owner Lisa McKnight attributes their success to the fact that they are one of the only high-end salons in the area.

Although the spa strives for a luxurious experience, haircuts

are very reasonably priced for such a salon. For $30, an associate designer will give you a wash, cut, dry, and even a scalp massage, all using Aveda's beautifully-scented products. For $40 and up, McKnight, a master designer will put her 22 years of hair-cutting, dying, and styling experience to use perfecting your coif.

Massages and facials are also very popular at the salon. Blue features a "Corrective Elemental Nature" facial for stressed skin, which includes exfoliation, face and neck massage, and addresses your individual skin concerns, whether you have dry, sensitive, or oily

skin.

Blue also offers a "botanical skin-resurfacing anti-aging facial," a "skin- renewing treatment" that improves skin slowly over the course of several treatments, a "plant peel," to exfoliate skin, and a "rosemary mint awakening body wrap."

Not one to skimp on the perks, Blue also includes a free footbath with each facial, as well as the scalp massage with each hair service. Additionally, be sure to ask for the Aveda tea. It's rather pricey to buy—about $14 for a box of 20 tea bags— but it's complementary at the spa and delightfully relaxing.

The salon's hours are also quite generous; many salons aren't open on Sundays or Mondays, and often close rather early. Blue Salon, however, is open 10-9 from Tuesday to Saturday, 12- 5 Sundays and 2- 9 on Mondays. Appointments can also be made conveniently online at bluesalonspa.com.

Blue Pricing

Massage: $50-70

Waxing
Brow/Upper Lip/Chin: $10
Bikini/Brazilian: $35/55
Full/Half Leg: $35/60
Hair cut:
Women $30-40
Flat iron or curl with cut add $10

Specials
Elemental Nature Facial: $45-70

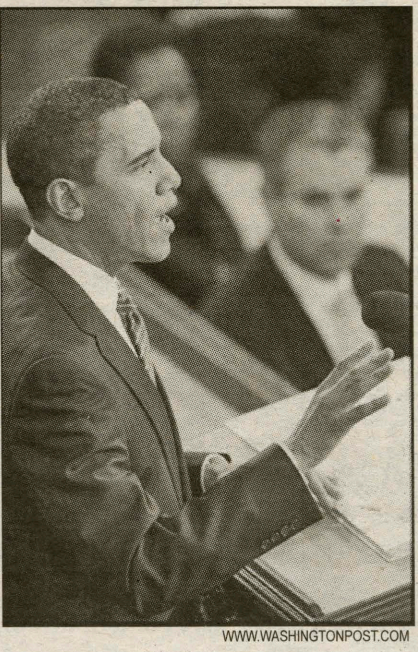
Botanical Skin resurfacing Anti-Aging facial: $70-95

Green Science Skin Renewing Treatment: $70-95

Perfecting Plant Peel: $75

Rosemary Mint Awakening Body Wrap: $90

The First Presidential Address to Congress



WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM

"The fact is, our economy did not fall into decline overnight. Nor did all of our problems begin when the housing market collapsed or the stock market sank."

"The only way this century will be another American century is if we confront at last the price of our dependence on oil and the high cost of health care, the schools that aren't preparing our children and the mountain of debt they stand to inherit. That is our responsibility."

"Tonight I want every American to know this: We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before."

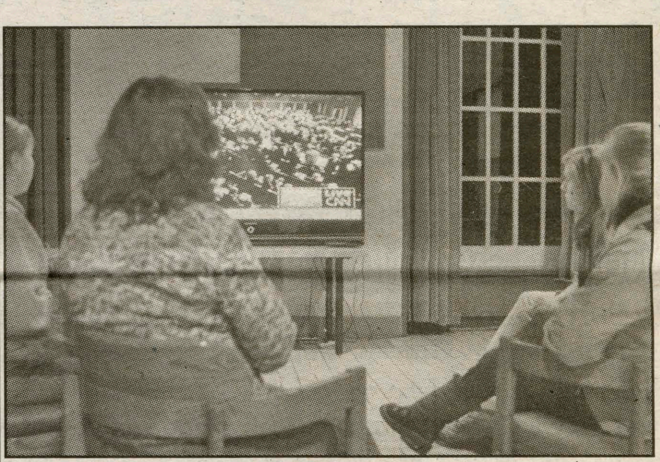


PHOTO BY CHRIS EASTON '11

The College Democrats organized a viewing of the address.

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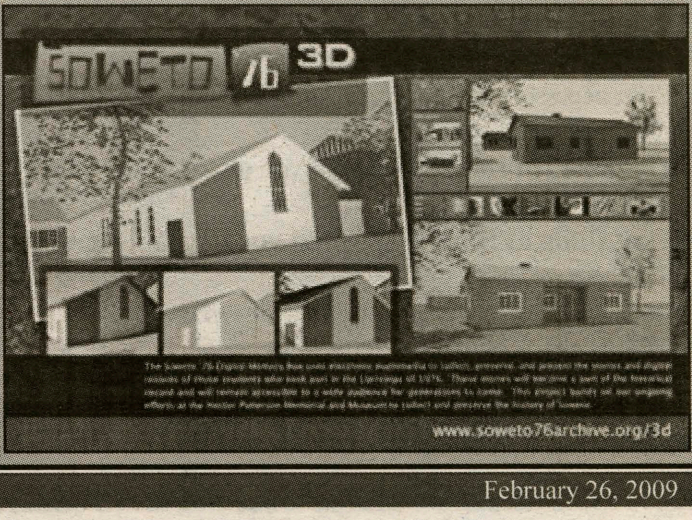
'The Trouble With Heritage' in South Africa: Digital Archives and Cyberworlds in the Liberal Arts Tradition
by
Angel Nieves, Associate Professor, Africana Studies
Lyndra Vassar '09, Student Respondent

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009
4:10 p.m. in Dwight Lounge

For further information contact
Steve Yao at 859-4325 or syao@hamilton.edu
Co-sponsored by the Dean of Faculty and the Digital Humanities initiative. (DHi)
~ Refreshments will be served ~



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●1:00●3:00-5:00-7:00▲9:00 — STADIUM SEATING — G

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER - BEST ACTRESS
The Reader — *KATE WINSLET* ●1:40-4:15-7:50 — R

DOUBT — *MERYL STREEP* ●12:40-●2:50-5:10-7:20▲9:35 — PG-13

WINNER OF 3 ACADEMY AWARDS
CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON — *BRAD PITT*
●1:10-4:25-7:40 — PG-13

FIRED UP! ●12:45●2:45-4:50-7:10▲9:15 — DTS — PG-13

TAKEN ●1:10●3:20-5:20-7:30▲9:30 — DTS — PG-13

PAUL BLART:MALL COP — *STADIUM SEATING* — *KEVIN JAMES*
●2:20-4:30-6:40▲8:40 — PG

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU ●1:20-5:50 — PG-13

FRIDAY THE 13TH ●3:50-8:05▲10:00 — R

HOTEL FOR DOGS ●1:30●3:40-5:45 — PG

THE INTERNATIONAL 7:45 — R

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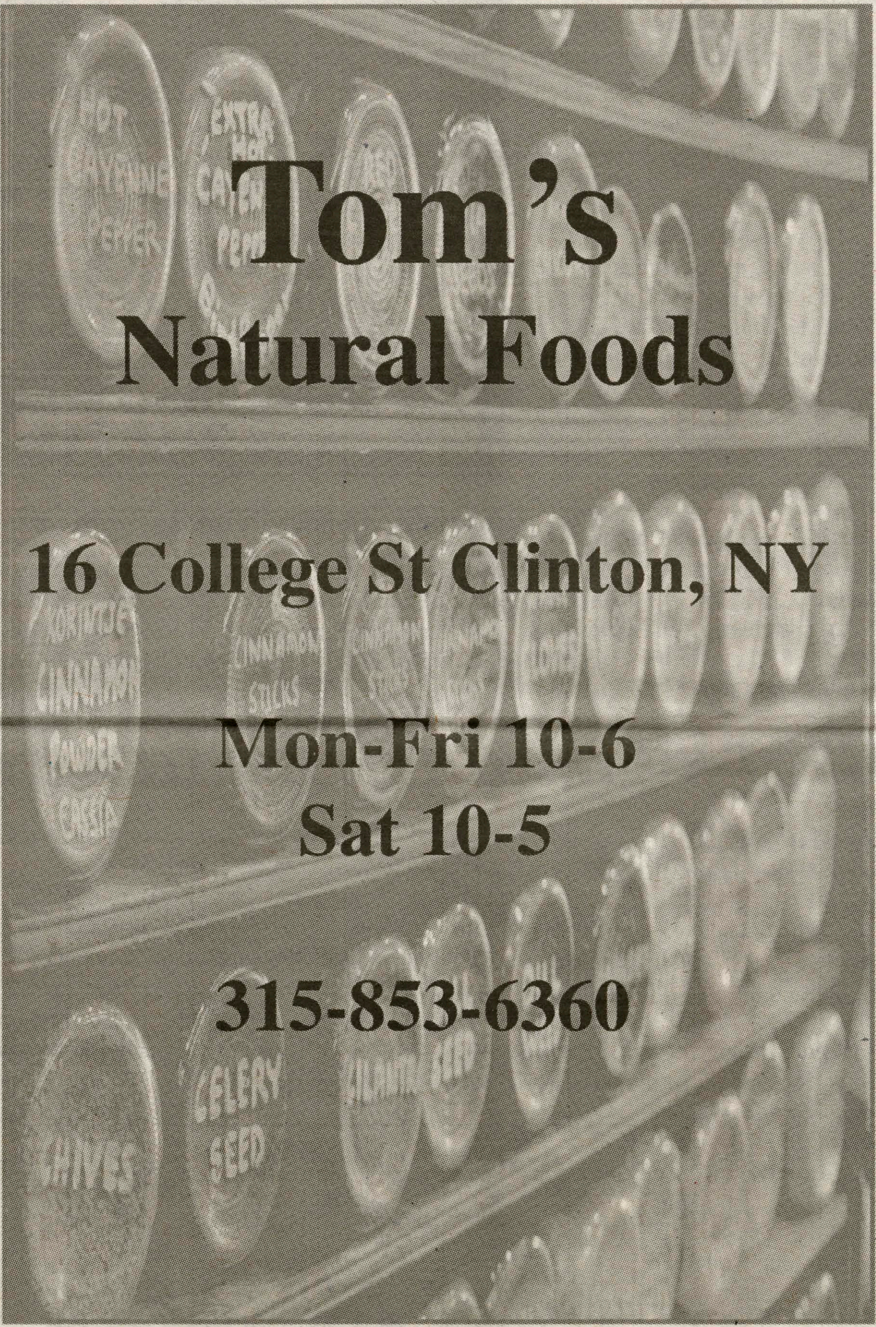

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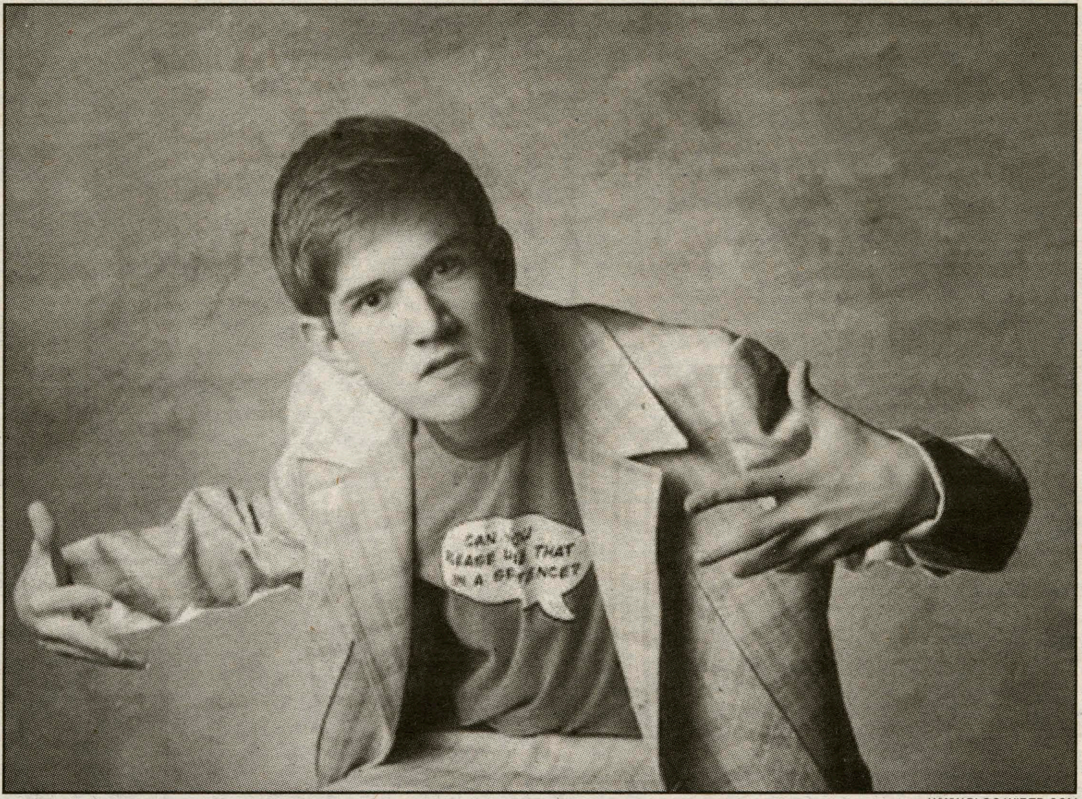
Bo Burnham Proves Teenagers Can Be Funny

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

At 18, Bo Burnham has accomplished more as a performer than many other aspiring comedians could hope to in a lifetime. The comedian/songwriter was, as recently as two years ago, just a regular high school kid from Hamilton, MA. However, thanks to two videos that he posted on YouTube in December 2006 of himself performing his songs in his bedroom, Burnham has become living proof of the Internet's ability to lift out of obscurity those who are blessed with both talent and luck. The huge turnout to see Burnham perform in the Events Barn on Saturday Feb. 21 was evidence enough of his presence on the pop culture radar, at least among the YouTube savvy set.

Burnham performed an hour-long show on Saturday night, using the guitar and the piano, and sometimes adding in a little freestyle rap for good measure. He performed fan favorites like "High School Party," a self-deprecating account of being un-cool in high school, "The Perfect Woman," a hilariously offensive piece about falling in love with Helen Keller, and "New Math," a fresh take on boring calculations, amongst others. The audience responded wonderfully, especially when Burnham brought a student up on stage at the end of the show and sang a love song to him.



WWW.BLOG.WIRED.COM

A young audience can relate to 18-year-old Burham's hilarious Youtube.com videos.

Burnham's appeal, both that night and as a performer, lies in both his awkwardly charming self-presentation (imagine that nerdy but witty theater kid from high school infused with the confidence that comes with national fame and acclaim), but also in his impressive talent as a lyricist. Like many younger comedians, Burnham is not afraid to talk about sexual topics or use gross-out humor in his songs, but the clever lyrical surprises therein reveal that he is smarter and more creative than many of his contemporaries. It is no wonder that he has already been recruited by Judd Apatow to write the music for one of Apatow's film projects, meant to be a satire on *High School Musical*.

The audience in the barn seemed genuinely riveted by Burnham not only because of his humor, but because his music holds a generational appeal. His songs make plenty of references to the media influences that many students grew up with because he is, after all, not so much younger than his Hamilton audience. His combination of rapping and singing in his performances also appealed to the current generation of Hamilton students, who, unlike many older people, have grown up exposed to about an equal amount of each in popular music. And it helped that Burnham does not pretend to have any legitimacy as a rapper, but rather writes satirical rap in order to poke fun at his own lack of credibility. This made his songs particularly relatable for his largely white, upper-middle class audience on Saturday night.

In addition to the Apatow film project, Burnham has a self-titled album and DVD due out in March. Singles from his first EP, entitled *Bo' Fo' Sho'* are currently available on iTunes and of course, on YouTube or Break.com, the platforms that originally launched his career.

Fans Get a (Pre-)Taste of U2

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

U2 launched to international stardom in 1987 with the release of their Grammy Award-winning album *The Joshua Tree*. The band has since re-invented their rock sound on *Achtung Baby* (1991), *Zooropa* (1993), and *Pop* (1997) by incorporating electronic, dance, and techno music to their classic "U2" sound found on their earlier albums *The Unforgettable Fire* and *War*. Upset by the negative reviews of *Pop*, U2 went back to the basics and released two traditional rock albums, *All That You Can Leave Behind* (1999) and *How To Dismantle an Atomic Bomb* (2004), building on a more alternative/modern rock sound. After abandoning a song catalogue recorded with Rick Rubin in 2006, U2 returned to the studio in 2007-2008 with famed producers Brian Eno, Daniel Lanois and Steve Lilywhite to record their new album *No Line On The Horizon*. The album is intended for release on Mar. 3 in North America, March 2nd in the U.K., and Feb. 27 in Ireland.

Bono initially reported last year that the album would be "hand-played but electro" and would revolutionize their sound. While U2 has an enormous, loyal fan base that ranges four decades, numerous fans have ominously written on website blogs that the new album's apparent "experimentation" could spell the end for the group. Nevertheless, U2's hard work over the past five years, the longest break between albums in the band's history, has seemingly paid off and proved that U2 is still one of the world's top rock acts. Critics have heralded *No Line On The Horizon* as U2's most innovative album since *Achtung Baby* and as a potential contender for the Best Rock Album Award at the 2010 Grammy's. The album has received five out of five stars from *Rolling Stone*, three and half stars out of five stars from *Spin*, four out of five stars from British newspaper *The Observer*, and favorable reviews from *BBC Music* and *The Daily Telegraph* in the U.K.

WWW.POPCRUNCH.COM

Critics expect U2's new already-leaked album, *No Line on the Horizon*, to top the charts.

The album's first single, "Get On Your Boots," has received enormous radio promotion since its release on Feb. 16. In addition, the band recently performed "Get On Your Boots" at the 51st Grammy Awards and the 2009 BRIT Awards, and plans to perform their single and other songs from *No Line On The Horizon* on *Good Morning America* on Mar. 6 and on the *Late Show With David Letterman* for five consecutive nights, from Mar. 2 to Mar. 7. Despite being unexpectedly leaked last week on the Internet, *No Line On The Horizon* is still predicted to be one of best selling albums of 2009. More importantly, the 11-track, 54-minute album holds the key to the rejuvenation of U2's musical creativity and hard-hitting rock persona for which they became famous.

How Many Lettuces?

by Joshua Hicks '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

MALCOLM X

When I hear someone say "In honor of Black History Month" I always hope someone can explain why February is so special. What's really at the heart of the matter is recognizing the struggle of those who felt the need to stand up for what they believed in. The beautiful thing about film is how artistic devices can illuminate something that your highschool textbooks either barely mentioned or didn't mention at all. One of those people was Malcolm X, and director Spike Lee rises to the occasion with his 1992 film about a young man who had to fight racism, drugs, crime and social oppression in America.

The film, *Malcolm X*, stars Denzel Washington who excels in his passion and fervor. Washington is beyond convincing, looking and sounding the part of the actual historical figure. The combination of Lee and Washington earn this film five out of five Lettuce Heads. Whether or not you agree with the ideals presented, it is important (especially as Americans) to look at every step this nation has taken, and where we might be going! I normally review shorter films, but I highly recommend *Malcolm X* for its historical reconstruction and ultimate strength, which can only be found in the root of America's struggle for civil liberty, equality and respect.

FIGHT CLUB

For those of you who haven't seen the Edward Norton and Brad Pitt classic, *Fight Club*, you are either afraid of blood (which is okay if you've ever been seduced by Dracula), or you need to make some new friends.

This flick is not only awesome, but it's an exceptional twisted story about your average dude who doesn't have a thing to live for until he meets his soon to be new best friend, which in turn leads to them starting an underground gathering of more dudes beating each other up simply for the rush. What happens after that, I leave for you to discover. It will blow your mind!

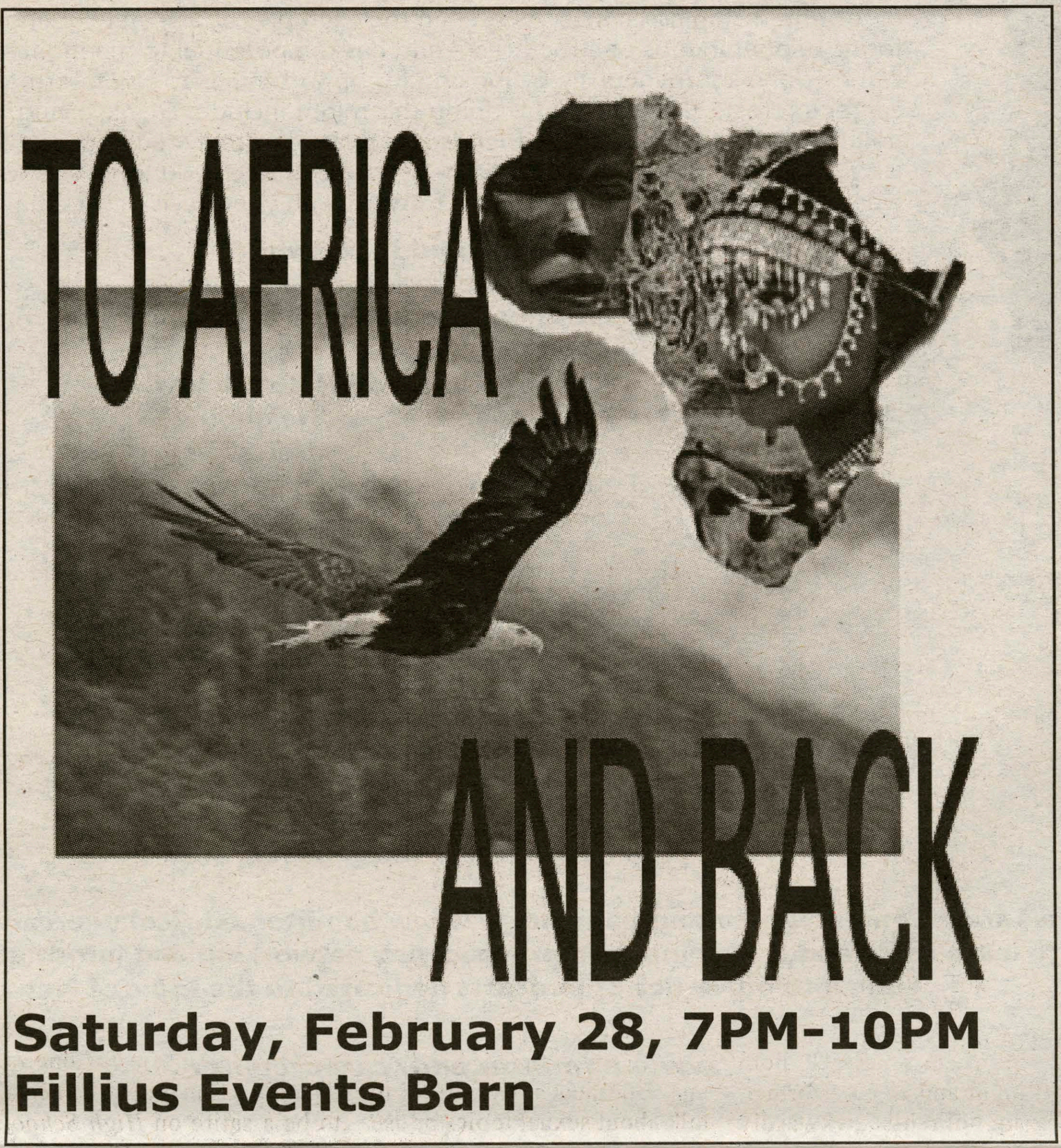
I must admit, not too many enigmatic films keep me this enthralled. Thriller, hmmm maybe. Chick flick, definitely not. How would I describe Fight Club? "First rule about Fight Club: you do not talk about Fight Club." Five Lettuce Heads. I can say no more.

Hamilton Celebrates Black History

by Jazmine Coleman '09
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

In celebration of Black History Month, The Black and Latino Student Union (BLSU) will present the "To Africa and Back" special event on Saturday Feb. 28 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Fillius Events Barn.

The purpose of the event is to trace and highlight the rich history and culture of the continent of Africa, and how these experiecnes relate to those of Blacks in America. In order to do this, the BLSU has scheduled several unique events that encompass a range of artistic and cultural expressions. Events will include an African art exhibit, African music and song, dance and poetry performances. According to BLSU, the evening "will begin with the darkest moments of Black history and highlight the trials and successes that Blacks have gone through in the United States." Of course, the whole of Black history and the pains and triumphs American Blacks have experienced cannot be fully captured in one evening. However, this entertaining event will offer a glimpse into this complex and nuanced world through an artistic lens and is sure to captivate audience members of all backgrounds and ages.



CULINARY HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Aries: Looking for a restaurant downtown? Perhaps the only thing that can rival Utica's amazing ethnic cuisine is its amazing ethnic violence.

Taurus: Food is one of life's simplest pleasures. Your relationship with elderly Bon Appetit staff members is one of life's most unnatural pleasures.

Gemini: Never run up to the entree bar in Commons without first reading the options. Otherwise you will just panic and order sautéed cauliflower like a dumb idiot.

Cancer: Your sophisticated taste buds tell you that all take-out Chinese food tastes the same. I tell you to stop being a racist.

Leo: Food can be brought into the bedroom to spice things up. Though I suggest feeding your partner chocolate covered strawberries rather than just eating a sandwich during sex.

Virgo: What you order in Commons says a lot about you as a person. Someone who makes a colorful salad is intelligent and creative, someone who gets pizza and hot dogs is carefree and fun, and someone who gets cheeseburger soup should be on suicide watch.

Libra: Take advantage of the oysters in Commons. They're delicious and also an aphrodisiac, especially since food poisoning gets you hard as a rock.

Scorpio: Even though you may be upset about the new face-to-face tray gathering method at McEwen, at least it's better than when they put those Bon Appetit creatures in that cave so when you dropped off your plate all you saw was a disembodied tentacle snatching your leftovers.

Sagittarius: Don't leave your sandwich in the George Foreman grill for too long or you'll create an enormous, boiling, napalm cheese monster that will attack all the other items in the grill. Then you'll have to answer to the bitchy, athletic chicks in spandex making their vegetarian paninis.

Capricorn: Although you can get up to four hash browns for a single bonus meal at diner breakfast, remember that open heart surgery is like six bonus meals at the hospital.

Aquarius: Remember to wait 20 minutes after a meal before you go swimming. And if your meal comes from the diner, you should probably wait 20 hours before climbing a flight of stairs.

Pisces: They say that if your hungry enough, everything tastes good. Unfortunately everyone who has tried this method at McEwen starved to death before reaching that point.

On the Hill

Thursday Feb. 26

CAB Acoustic House: David Wilcox
Events Barn
8 p.m.

Friday Feb. 27

SK Films Presents: Nashville and *The Last Picture Show*
KJ Auditorium
7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
(also showing Saturday 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Sunday 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.)

The Mohawk Valley Dance Partnership and Hamilton College Performing Arts Present: Flamenco Vivo Performance
Wellin Hall
7:30am.

Saturday Feb. 28

Public Speaking Competition
Chapel 1-6 p.m.

To Africa and Back **Events Barn**
7 p.m.

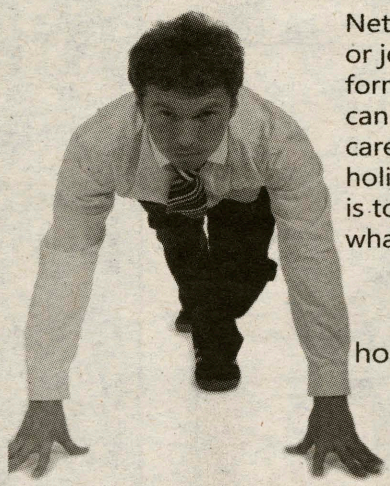
Buffers Invitational Concert
Chapel 7 p.m.

Sunday Mar. 1

"God Grew Tired of Us" film showing
KJ 125 2 p.m.

The Career Center

Ready, set, NETWORK!! PREPARE FOR SPRING BREAK...



Networking is the process of developing personal contacts for the purpose of career exploration or job/internship assistance. As seen in the examples above, networking typically takes one of two forms - spontaneous or structured – and has the potential to meet different needs. Networking can be done spontaneously by looking for opportunities to talk informally with others about your career interests. Good times for doing this might include: Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks; holiday parties, travel, visiting friends and relatives, family reunions, etc. An effective way to do this is to develop a two-to-three sentence synopsis of what you think you want to do career-wise and what information you need to move forward with your decision or plan.

When Should I Network?

BREAKS are the perfect time including;
holiday parties, travel, visiting friends and relatives, and family reunions.

Who Should I Network With?

- Family friends
- Relatives
- Former Employers or Co-workers
- Neighbors
- Professors
- Personal friends and their contacts
- Local Politicians

What Should I Ask My Networking Contacts?

Here are a few questions to get you started:

- What do you like about your job?
- What do you not like about your job?
- Do you know of anyone else in this field that you think it would be beneficial for me to speak with?
- What kinds of experiences, paid or otherwise, would you most strongly recommend I acquire?

Visit the Career Center Networking page http://www.hamilton.edu/college/career/guides/networking/ to learn more about developing a prospect list, networking and informational interviews.
Tune into our series of podcasts dedicated to the topic of Networking!

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"BABY, WE'RE THE GREATEST"

BioTour Bus Draws a Crowd on Martin's Way

*from **BioTour**, page 1*

and has formed BioTour, Inc., a non-profit group, in order to visit schools and other organizations to spread environmental awareness. The pair has travelled to 46 states, and last fall 13 volunteers were on the road in the two buses.

The bus at Hamilton could sleep 10 people, and most of the furniture was either made out of the bus seats from the bus originally or recycled from other uses. One cabinet had been found in the barn where Burke and Palm were housing the bus while they made additions to the engine to help it run on vegetable oil.

Although it may seem to people today a foreign concept to have a diesel engine run on something other than diesel fuel, Burke points out that Rudolph Diesel originally designed his engine to run on plant oils, using peanut oil when he showed the engine at conventions. "The diesel engine was modified to run on a petroleum-based product because of the excess of petroleum at the time," explains Burke. Part of the message of the BioTour bus is that in today's changing world, new solutions are needed to help the world solve its renewed energy crisis.

"There is no one right way to solve our enegy problems," said Burke. He explained that while using waste vegetable oil as fuel worked well for the BioTour group, farming all the arable land in the United States for fuel, even eliminating that used for food, would produce only 20 percent of the energy needed to power the United States today. "The real problem, said Burke, "is our over-consumption of fuel. Look at the way we drive: one person waits in traffic alone in a car. There are better ways."

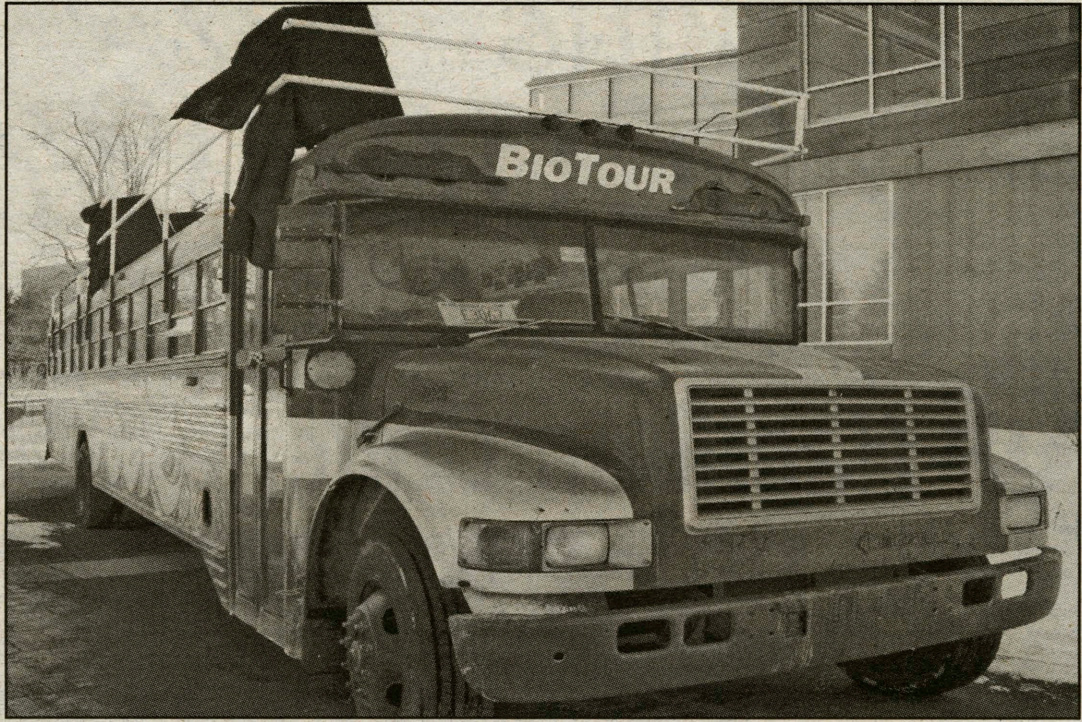


PHOTO BY LEXI NISITA '12

The BioTour bus and three members of thepent the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 17 in front of the Science Center and the afternoon in front of Kirner-Johnson Commons.

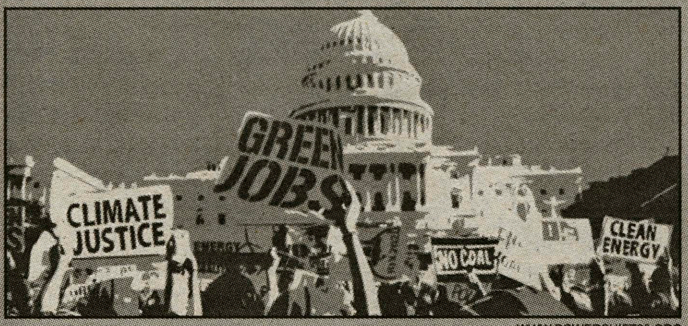
The group is quick to point out that the bus runs primarily on waste oil, not biodiesel or ethanol, in which crops are farmed directly for fuel. "We're not taking away anybody's food here," said Palm. "This grease was going to be thrown out."

For those who are confused by the difference between running a vehicle on biodiesel as opposed to vegetable oil, Stiles-Royall explains, "With biodiesel you change the fuel. With vegetable oil you change the engine."

In the case of the BioTour bus, the group uses two tanks. The first tank (the starter tank) uses biodiesel or regular diesel to warm the engine and then flips a switch to the second tank, using heated vegetable oil. The heat lowers the viscosity of the vegetable oil, allowing the engine to process the waste grease as it would regular diesel fuel.

The best part of their experience, the group agrees, has been meeting new and interesting people wherever they go. "The people you meet is the fuel that keeps this trip going," said Burke. "Well, that and grease."

26 Hamiltonians at Power Shift 2009



WWW.POWERSHIFT09.ORG

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

On Friday, Feb. 27, over 10,000 students, environmental advocates and concerned civilians will join together in Washington, D.C. at the D.C. Convention Center as part of Power Shift 2009. They will press the new Obama administration and Congress to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation, including creating millions of green jobs, while at the same time build connections between student groups and campus organizers. Among the throngs will be at least 26 Hamilton College students.

The group will leave on Friday, taking a Jitney and a car. Because the interest in going was so high, Catie Ferrara '11, the campus coordinator for Power Shift 2009 at Hamilton, reports that some of the Hamilton contingent will be traveling with the group from Colgate. In Washington, D.C., the group will meet up with Hamiltonians in the Washington, D.C., semester study program, notably Kye Lippold '10 who, along with Ferrara, was part of Hamilton's 17-member contingent to Power Shift 2007 in November of that year.

Power Shift 2007 was the first event of its kind, and it was a landmark in organization history. Ferrara said, "It [Power Shift 2007] was the largest protest rally for anything since Earth Day 1970. It was really huge." Notable speakers in 2007 included Rep. Ed Markey, chair of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming and the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Power Shift 2009 promises to be even bigger. The headline speaker this time around is none other than Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Others include Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, Reps. Markey and Donna Edwards (of Maryland), and green job luminary Majora Carter. Also speaking will

*see **Excitement**, page 18*

Getting into Med School, Part Two: The Interviews

by Matthew Crowson '09
Science & Technology Sr. Writer

The pre-medical path is long and can oftentimes seem like an overwhelming darkened labyrinth of hoops to jump through and vague benchmarks to surpass. The goal of this article series is to serve as a torch for those of you who choose to enter this maze by offering practical tips and advice from the perspective of students who have navigated past the many of the mile-markers that line the pre-medical journey.

A meticulously dressed pre-medical student from a Midwestern university sits patiently in a medical school admissions office waiting room. The student exchanges nervous, shifty glances with other applicants scattered throughout the otherwise silent room while the administrative assistant taps out e-mails and memos on a dated keyboard. Moments later, a door adjacent to the assistant's desk opens swiftly to reveal an older, professional-looking gentleman holding a manila folder. The gentleman calls the student's name and asks that she follow him. They both enter the professional's sterile office, and the door closes behind them.

The office has a stiff wooden chair, a desk with office chair and a French window. The professional sits down first, behind the desk, and motions for the student to take a seat in the wooden chair. Not a second after the student sits down; the man comments, "It sure is hot today. Would you mind opening the window behind me, please?" The student bolts from her chair and heads to the window. She tries to open it, but the window will not budge. It is nailed shut. "Ah," says the gentleman with a smirk on his face, "it is indeed nailed. Thank you for coming, and would you mind sending the next applicant in, please?"

There is a considerable amount of both truth and myth that encompass the typical pre-med's perception of the medical school admissions interview. The horror-story interview example that I chose as a preface to this article is arguably the most famous (or infamous) med school admissions interview myth-nightmare I have yet to hear on the interview trail. Do not fret – the vast majority of applicants the interviews are not scary. With some time invested in preparing for your interviews, I promise you will be in great shape.

Nick Berry '09, a veteran of 10 interviews, believes the best way to prepare for the medical school interview is to know your application materials inside and out. "I prepared for my interviews by memorizing my AMCAS application, reviewing my secondary application to whatever school I was applying at (if there was one), reading the school's website, and going on Student Doctor [Network]." The Student Doctor Network website (studentdoctor.net) is an invaluable resource for applicants as it boasts school-specific interview feedback generated by applicants who interviewed with a given institution earlier in the admissions season. Aaron Richterman '09, another applicant with multiple interviews under his belt, agrees with Nick about the SDN website. "I looked at that interview feedback website…which is really helpful in letting you know about the types of questions asked, travel concerns, whether you should be prepared to have to go a distance from the admissions office to the interview, et cetera."

So, you've read your application fifty times, and you are convinced you could handle any question based on the content of your written statements. How does one go about becoming good at the interview? Are there only a select few born with impeccable interpersonal charm and tactful, spontaneous speech? Fear not, I say. This is where Pre-Health Professions Advising Director, Leslie North and Leslie Bell of the Career Center come in. In the weeks prior to my first interview, I solicited the help of North to assist in forming my "story" and the main sticking points I wanted my interviewers to walk away with. I then set up a mock-interview with Bell to try my hand at a live interview. In retrospect, I would say that the mock interview is one of the most important preparative steps one can take to become a med school interview pro. Richterman agrees with me on this one. "…Mock interviews with Leslie Bell are really, really helpful --

*see **Getting**, page 17*

Utica Students Explore Chemistry and Enjoy Eating Their Discoveries

by Pat Hodgens '09
Production Editor

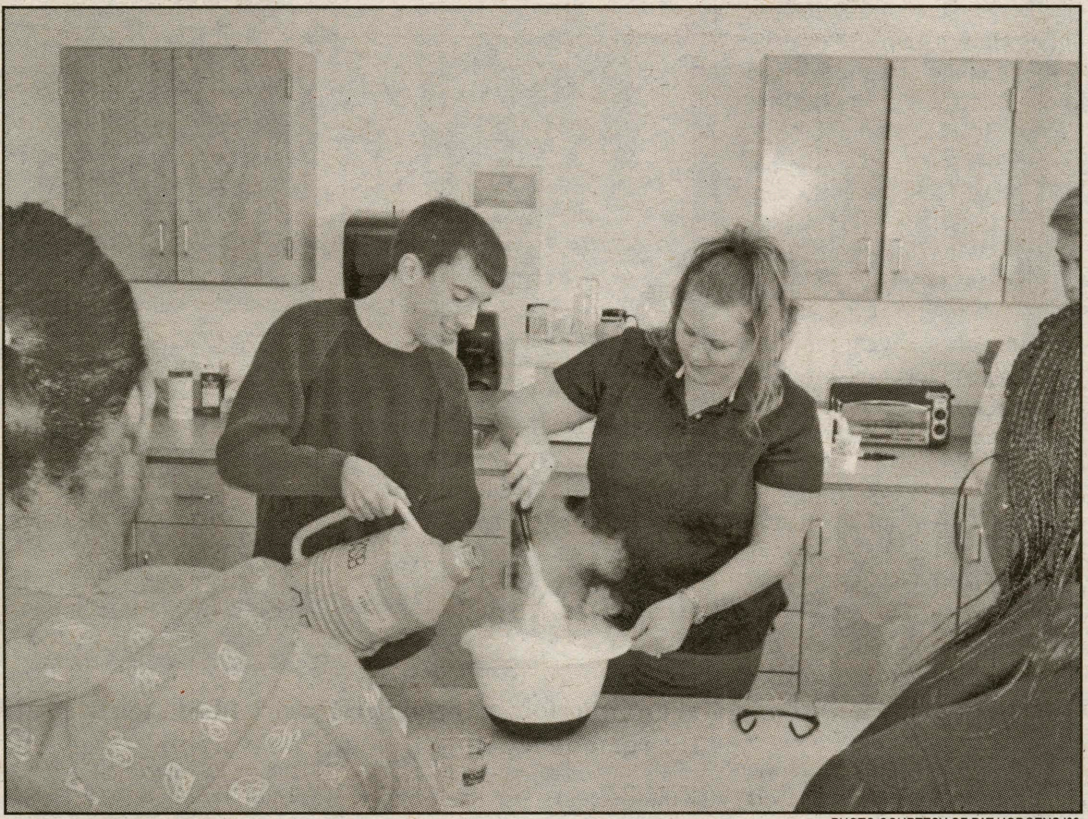


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT HODGENS '09

Tom Morrell '10 pours liquid nitrogen over a mixture soon to be ice cream as Prof. Nicole Snyder stirs. The students from Utica schools look on in wonder.

You may wonder about the middle and high school students you see in Commons every other Saturday around noon. These students come up to campus as a part of the Study Buddy program for tutoring, mentoring and, of course, waffles and ice cream. They got a new lesson Saturday, Feb. 21; thanks to help from the Chemical Society, students learned about the science behind ice cream and about one of the most interesting scientific toys – liquid nitrogen.

The Chemical Society showed the students how to make ice cream using liquid nitrogen. Assistant Professor of Chemistry Nicole Snyder and Chemical Society members Tom Morrell '10 and Keith Willner '11 ran the activity. Morrell is also a Study Buddies tutor.

The professor and Chemical Society members made the dessert for the students, explaining the science that makes it work. The recipe initially calls for standard kitchen ingredients: sugar (3/4 cup), heavy cream (16 oz), half and half (1 qt.) and vanilla (2 tsp). The Chemical Society members combined all those ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Once those were all mixed together, Morrell slowly poured the liquid nitrogen over the mixture while Snyder stirred forcefully. Morrell continued pouring until the ice cream froze. The entire process took between five and ten minutes.

Liquid nitrogen is "one of the coldest things we can get our hands on on Earth," Snyder explained to the students. It can be dangerous – improperly handling it with your bare hands may cause cold burns – but it is perfectly safe for preparing ice cream.

"Because liquid nitrogen boils at 77.2 K (-320.44°F), it is able to quickly cool the liquid ingredients down to 273.15 K (32°F), the freezing point of water," explained Morrell. "This is much more efficient than the old-fashioned method of making ice cream in a rotating drum surrounded by ice and salt since the temperature of that mixture is only 263 K (13.7°F)."

Once it had, the nitrogen (which is the largest component of the atmosphere) evaporated back into the air. The final product did not look exactly like the ice cream you find in Commons, but it earned rave reviews.

"It really is good. It looks weird, but it's good!" said Takarra Thorp, an eighth grader at John F. Kennedy Middle School in Utica. "It's even better than normal ice cream," added Jamar Hymes, a sixth grader at the same school.

Study Buddies is an on-campus mentoring and tutoring group. The HAVOC-affiliated service project brings middle and high school students from Utica to campus every other Saturday for lunch in Commons, tutoring and educational activities. The project is run in conjunction with For the Good, Inc., a Utica-based non-profit.

The Chemical Society, which organized the session, has worked with Study Buddies in the past. Last semester, they ran a workshop in which the students from Utica had the opportunity to perform a variety of experiments. They experienced everything from a substance that transformed from liquid to solid without changing temperature to miniature fireworks and exploding bubbles.

Study Buddies works with many student groups on campus to arrange such activities. KSA, AXL, the Oral Communication Center and BLSU have all worked led activities in the past two years. "I think it's excellent that we get to experience... learning from actual college students," said Hymes.

Abby Getman, a community organizer at For the Good, Inc., said the activity "was really positive. Something that's universal, like ice cream, sparked their interest in chemistry, which is exactly what we want." Getman added, "I'm really happy and impressed with the support that Study Buddies gets, not only from students at Hamilton College but faculty as well... I think that it's great that [the Chemical Society is] interested in sharing their love of chemistry with Utica teenagers."

Wacky Facts: Snow

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

• Rochester, New York averages 94 inches of snow annually and is the snowiest large city in the United States. Buffalo is a close second.

• The largest amount of snow to fall in one day was 63 inches in Georgetown, Colorado.

• Practically every location in the United States has seen snowfall. Even most portions of southern Florida have seen a few snow flurries.

• Snowflakes are always hexagonal but the majority are not perfectly symmetrical -- uneven temperatures, dirt and other factors usually cause them to be lopsided.

• Almost 313 inches of snow fell in seven days on Tamarack, California in March, 1953, making it the snowiest month on record.

• Each year an average of 105 snow-producing storms affect the continental United States.

• The snowiest week ever occurred in Thompson Pass, Alsaka; 187 inches fell.

• The greatest snowfall in Phoenix, Arizona was in 1933. The grand total was one inch.

• Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley analyzed and photographed snowflakes under a microscope in the 1920s. He claimed "no two snowflakes are alike" yet has been proven wrong. He adapted a microscope to his camera, becoming the first man to capture a snow crystal on film.

• The average snowflake has a top speed of 1.7 metres per second.

• Chionophobia is a fear of snow.

• Japanese scientists have developed a snow-eating robot, fitted with GPS, which shovels snow from the drive and compacts it into ice bricks.

• Around 12 percent of the Earth's land surface is covered in permanent snow and ice.

• Throwing snowballs at a person is a crime in the UK.

Getting into Med School: Interviews

*from **Getting**, page 16*

At the very least you get a practice run to give your answers to the standard questions that you will get asked at every interview (Why this school? Why medicine? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?), and she is good at picking up on very obvious mistakes that you may miss."

If you know your application cold and can present your story, you will be able to handle almost everything thrown your way. With that said, some interviewers can ask questions in unorthodox or "round-about" ways to get a central theme. For instance, Berry faced some questions such as "When was a time you let someone down?" and "Have you ever done something unethical or that you knew was wrong?" At face value, it is plausible to think that these questions could throw a wrench in your plan to tell the interviewer how fantastic and one-of-a-kind you are. If you take a step back however, and realize that the interviewer couldn't care less about exactly who you let down or what unethical quandary you faced, then the tricky question becomes a "gimme." For instance, with the ethical question, start by outlining the situation, the thought process behind your decision and the personal values you called upon to make the difficult decision.

One last bit of advice for the interviews themselves is that you need to recognize the "Is there anything else you would like me to know?" toss-up as a golden opportunity to provide an instant-replay of your strengths. Berry says "make sure you take this opportunity to either add something to the conversation or to reiterate something you've already said (usually the major points of why you want to be a doctor, why you'd make a good doctor, and why you want to go to X medical school)."

Lastly, while one of the main components of the interview day are the one-on-one sessions with students, doctors or faculty members, it is important that you also give the school a solid look as well. Can you see yourself living there for four years? Can you relate to the students? Richterman believes that "you need energy for a full day, not just the interview. While you sit and wait, students will come and talk to you about their school, so be ready to talk to them. They are usually very enthusiastic and willing to give you honest answers. This has honestly been the best way I have been able to gauge each school."

Berry echoes this sentiment. "You are going to be spending four or more years at this school, so you want to make sure it is someplace you like. If nothing else, don't go home from the interview day with unanswered questions still lingering on your mind. Get all of your questions answered! At some schools, you'll have plenty of opportunities to ask questions or to learn more about the school, whether it be in informational sessions, meetings with students, the tour or in the interview itself."

While no two interviews are the same, the skills outlined in this article will help you tackle just about every interview scenario. Stay tuned for the final article in the series about the senior perspective on the Hamilton Pre-Medical experience.

Emmy-Nominated Game Designer Comes to Play

by Saad Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Editor

Associate Professor in the University of Southern California (USC) Interactive Media Division of the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Tracy Fullerton, visited Hamilton on Feb. 22 to present a lecture focused on online game design. In it, she emphasized the recent innovation in re-designing goals for game designers to achieve with their audience, including a feeling of not only entertainment, but also spiritual enlightenment.

Fullerton is a game designer, writer, educator, and an inspirer, winning several awards such as an Emmy nomination for developing Spiderdance (interactive television), I.D. Magazine's Interactive Design Review, Communication Arts Interactive Design Annual, several New Media Invision awards, iMix Best of Show, best Family/Board Game from the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences, the Digital Coast Innovation Award, IBC's Nombre D'Or, Time Magazine's Best of the Web, IndieCade's Festival of Independent Games and The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment Power 100.

She initiated her presentation by saying, "Most games are fantasies that tend to tell us that if we work hard, we level up, and become more powerful over time." However, Fullerton's goal with the game was to demonstrate to the audience the few games that do not entirely meet this expectation.

For instance, Fullerton explained how a multiple awards-winning game that she advised her students on designing, *Cloud*, "tries to evoke through gameplay a sort of 'oneness' like the kind of feeling a child may get on a perfect summer day while looking into a blue sky with interesting shaped clouds." The game begins with a story focusing on a seven year old boy, Jun, with severe asthma that prevents him from leaving his ward and he ponders the "feeling of flying headlong through clouds." A girl he befriends in the ward, Fei (meaning "fly" in Chinese), asks him to close his eyes and tell her what he sees, and the game begins as the player's avatar is moved into the sky with clouds, free to roam about and interact with the environment. Thus, there are not any strict levels or objectives in the game, other than to lose oneself into the soothing, Apollonian dream of the game.

Later in the presentation, Fullerton more specifically expressed her video game design goal, saying it is "to evoke the sense of journey of enlightenment through the mechanics of the game experience." When asked later what she meant by "enlightenment," she responded she meant enlightenment more so in the spiritual sense than in the intellectual sense. Thus, it is no wonder she seemed frustrated with the current game designing industry, as she rhetorically asked, "Why is it that game designers don't have a wider range of verbs, and why is it that they can't express deep issues such as genocide?" Following these questions, she added that these inquiries "come out of frustration through the perspective of a game designer," one of which came out of experiences 15 years prior to her coming into the world of academia.

After the presentation, an audience member asked Fullerton whether she also considers herself an artist, and she replied "It seems to me that making video games requires so much collaboration between different technologies and designers that the process really doesn't seem like an art." But at the conclusion of the event, she said her desire was that she and others like her could create games that "would feel like a dream, eventually causing one to lose all connections with earth, but also allowing one to gain greater understanding of the self." She added that such a desire is remarkably similar to those thought to be held by the great Renaissance artists such as Botticelli and da Vinci, the desire to force greater insight of the individual through the stimulation of the senses.

WWW.FLICKR.COM

Tracy Fullerton, associate professor at USC, lectured at Hamiltonon video games and said a game she helped design, *Cloud*, was meant to evoke a basic sense of "oneness."

Excitement, Hope for Power Shift '09

from Hamiltonians, page 16

be *TIME* Environmental Hero 2008 Van Jones, the former head of President Obama's transition team John Podesta and the mayors of four U.S. cities.

Power Shift 2007 was "an amazing experience," said Ferrarra. "It left us all with a real sense of empowerment." However, she said she was looking forward to the 2009 version and explained the difference. "There is a new dynamic with the new administration -- we really think we can get something done," she said.

Ferrarra also was encouraged by the fact that many members of the Hamilton contingent this year are freshmen and sophomores who will continue to build programs on the Hill years into the future.

In addition to speakers, the Hamilton participants at Power Shift 2009 will participate in panels and workshops on a wide variety of environmental topics.Some of these sessions will be politically-based. Others will range in topic from "Faith, Religion, and Environmentalism," to "Civil Rights, Hip Hop, and the New Eco-Equity Movement." Many of these sessions will be focused on campus organization, teaching students how to organize effective groups on their own campus.

Other opportunities for Power Shift participants include a graduate school and opportunities fair, tours of toxic sites near Washington, D.C. and movie screenings. The final day of the gathering, Mar. 2, is Lobby Day. Almost all of the over 10,000 participants will be shadowing some part of the lobbying network on Capitol Hill connected with environmental awareness scheduled by Energy Action. The day will conclude with a rally in the U.S. Capitol West Lawn.

Programs like Power Shift have already enabled massive amounts of organization and cohesion. Since Powershift 2007, Power Shift's Power Vote campaign has garnered 341,127 pledges to vote and demand U.S. leaders create millions of green jobs, invest in a clean energy economy, cut global warming pollution and re-engage as a leader in the international environmental community. It seems Hamilton's contingent will have plenty of company in Washington, D.C.

RecycleMania 2009 Results Through Week 4 (Feb. 14)

Grand Champion:

New York Schools	*Cumul. Recycling Rate (%)*
1. Onondoga Community	**56.57%**
2. Wells College	**41.01%**
3. RIT	**36.06%**
4. SUNY Binghamton	**35.56%**
5. Ithaca College	**32.25%**
6. University of Rochester	**28.52%**
7. Vassar College	**26.44%**
8. New York University	**26.39%**
9. Saint John's University	**22.50%**
10. Bard College	**21.61%**
11. Hobart William Smith	**20.06%**
12. SUNY Albany	**17.85%**
13. Stony Brook University	**17.66%**
11. SUNY Buffalo	**17.53%**
13. Hamilton College	***14.61%***
14. Union College	**0.79%**

Hamilton Week 5: 18.10% (est.)

National Grand Champion Rank: #168/198

Per Capita Classic:

New York Schools	*Cumul. Recyclables (lbs./person)*
1. RIT	**10.65**
2. Vassar College	**7.28**
3. Hobart William Smith	**5.68**
4. University of Rochester	**5.22**
5. Onondaga Community	**5.10**
6. Hamilton College	***4.97***
7. Stony Brook University	**4.55**
8. Ithaca College	**4.27**
9. SUNY Binghamton	**4.24**
10. Wells College	**3.68**
11. Bard College	**3.41**
12. SUNY Albany	**2.95**
13. SUNY Fredonia	**2.13**
14. New York University	**1.99**
15. SUNY Buffalo	**1.80**
12. Paul Smiths College	**1.57**
16. Yeshiva University	**1.13**
17. Saint John's University	**1.12**
19. Union College	**0.16**

Results from recyclemania.org and Recycling Task Force

Men and Women's Track Teams Take on Cornell

by James Russell '09 and Scott Bickard '11
Sports Writers

The one noticeable difference between the Cornell Men's Team and its Division III opponents at Cornell University at Cornell's Invitational this past weekend was their uniforms.

"Real flashy, and those lightning bolts they had going down the sides? Pristine," Cam "Straightlord" Gaylord '09 commented. While it's clear that whoever designed the Cornell uni's is in a class all by himself, the results of the meet suggest that looks can be deceiving. The Hamilton men's team was right in the mix, even among the 20-plus colleges present. On the women's side, Cornell dominated nearly every event. However, this did not prevent some members of the women's team from achieving standout performances. Even in the absence of national qualifying triple jumper Akilah Bond '09 (whose absence was the result of a required test for Teach for America), the Continentals proved they were a force to be reckoned with.

Junior Cuffie Lou "Gehrig" Winkler's double-header of 2:01 and 2:02 in the 800m open and relay races, respectively, would have made any Philly proud. The sub-two mark, which compares to a .300 batting average in baseball, looks true for Lou's future. Keith Gross's fine senior season continued on Saturday with his 13th place, sub 2:40 (baseball index = .296) showing in the 1000-meters. Gen Flanders '09, who many call the "female Gross" because of her similarly strong senior year, matched Keith with a 5:31 (.321, softball), 8th place mile.

JP "PJ" Traylor '10 and his understudy, Ryan "Brian Clay" Cray '12 quick-stepped their 200-meter race, with the freshman Cray's personal best time of 24.42 (.289) edging out Traylor's 24.76 (.283). "He's got some Wes Welker in him. You know, that scrappiness," Josh Orndorff '11 said of Cray.

Every meet seems to have its marquee event. It's the races with top-heavy competition and gritty performances. For Hamilton it's the races featuring Peter Kosgei '10, who has the ability to do something special every time he puts on his spikes, sans socks. Kosgei chose to run the mile on Saturday, winning easily in 4:14 (.344- batting title) and a provisional qualifying time. You'll get to see Kosgei really work in the mile portion of the Distance Medley Relay at states. Warning: possible sub-four minute mile sighting.

In addition, Bill Reid '10 big-thighed his way to an eighth place finish in 4:32 (.301 with power), meeting his personal best. I (Scott Bickard) also have to admit to a decent day out there in setting my personal record at 4:38 (.290, mostly singles).

On the women's side, freshman Jackie "Liz" Wald placed 15th in the 300-meter run in just over 45 seconds. Chelsea Stone '10 continued to build on her golden spike performance in a breezy mark of three minutes, 18 seconds in the 1000-meters, just behind senior Sarah Caney's 3:17.

Big day for Lauren Peters-Collaer '11: The high-potential high jumper topped her personal best of 4'11" with a jump of 5'1". Vaulter Rebecca Yaguda '09 continued the strong tradition of the pole vault program with her sixth place jump.

The team will travel to RIT for state championships this weekend.

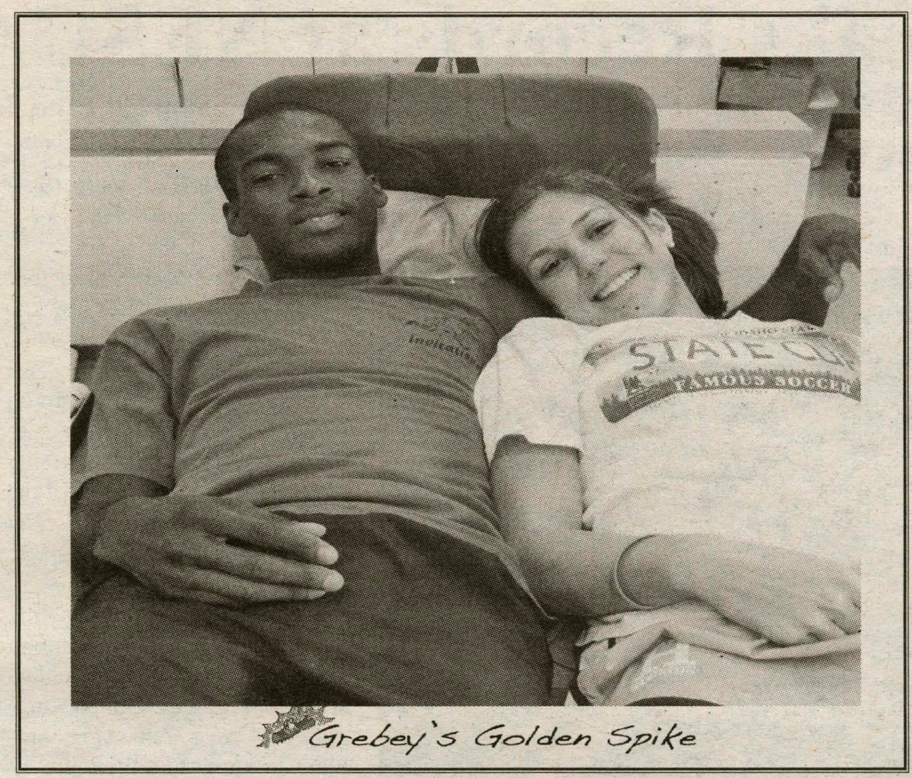


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES RUSSELL '09

Golden Spike Award winners Tidelco Ductan '09 and Liz Wahl '10 kick back and relax in the training room after a hard practice.

Golden Spike Award Winners

Men's Golden Spike Winner: Tidelco Ductan '09 - Even though he lost his first meet of the year, the senior triple jumper broke his own school record by over a foot with a mark of 46'11". You can call him Mr. Liberty League, as he was recently named field athlete of the week.

Women's Golden Spike Winner: Liz Wahl '10 - Sprinter Liz Wahl's finish of 61.54 seconds in the 400 meters (an event she hasn't had too much experience with) was her most "wahlsy" performance of the year.

Women's Hockey Skates Into NESCAC Championship '09

by Brooke Rayder '11
Sports Editor

The women's hockey team will attempt to avenge two regular season losses to Amherst College when the Continentals take on the Lord Jeffs in the quarterfinal round of the NESCAC Championship this weekend. The Continentals' most recent loss to the Lord Jeffs came nearly a month ago at Sage Rink.

The Continentals hope to improve upon a 3-11-2 record in NESCAC. With an overall record of 9-13-2, they have shown the ability to make moves on the ice, but not on a consistent basis. The team had strong offense both on and off the power play, when it won its first three games of the season.

A December slump resulted in six losses to teams like R.I.T., Trinity and Connecticut College. These games, however, were played away from home and losses to Trinity and Connecticut College were by a total of three goals combined. Ties to Bowdoin and Colby in mid-January worsened Hamilton's NESCAC record, but the team responded by beating Wesleyan twice. In their first game against Wesleyan, a variety of Hamilton players tallied points, including Becky Cairns '11, Meredith Bitterman '12 and Amy Allen '10. Meg Shine '10 also proved tough in the net with 24 saves. Both offense and defense proved strong in the overtime win.

The Continentals' homecoming started off with a strong win against SUNY Potsdam, but was followed by four consecutive NESCAC losses. In a loss to Connecticut College, two penalties in the third period hurt Hamilton down the stretch. In a 6-1 loss to Amherst, the Lord Jeffs scored 5 out of its 6 goals on power plays. Against Bowdoin, Hamilton got out to a slow start, scoring its first goal down by three in the second period.

Because the team has had so many ties and close losses, its record in NESCAC could be drastically different. In the playoffs, it will be important to not commit as many penalties as well as to continue attacking the opposing team's goal. In their most recent loss, the Continentals were outshot by the Middlebury Cougars 47-8. In the playoffs, Hamilton will need a heavy shooting artillery from its front line to keep its offense moving. Miguel '11, Sharlow '11, Kroleski '09, Allen '10 and Marek '09 will be looking to keep their goal and assist numbers going as the start of the postseason begins.

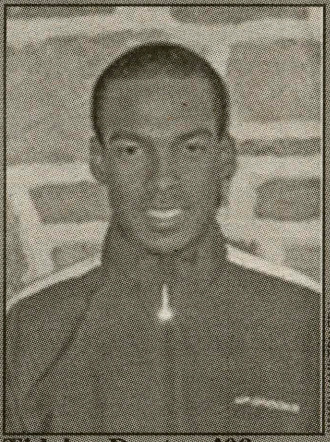
Saturday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

Hamilton College (8th)
vs.
Amherst College (1st)

Email Abby Perer '09 (aperer) with your suggestions for Athlete of the Week!

Athlete of the Week: Tidelco Ductan '09

by Abby Perer '09
Sports Writer



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Tidelco Ductan '09

Age: 23

Hometown: Originally Haiti, but currently New York City

Sport: Track & Field

Years Competing: Six

Claim to Fame: Ductan has been a stellar performer for the Continentals all season. He came in first place in the triple jump five meets in a row, and on Saturday at Cornell he broke his own school record in the same event with a 46'11" performance, and qualified for Nationals in the process.

Favorite Pro Athlete: Ex-Brazilian Soccer player Romario de Souza

Favorite Sports Movie: Talladega Nights

Proudest Athletic Moment: Saturday's performance at Cornell

Most Embarrassing Athletic Moment: Once, in high school, Ductan fell two feet from the finish line in a race, eliminating his sizeable lead.

Hobbies: French literature, hanging out with friends, and playing soccer and basketball

Next Meet: Friday, February 27, NYSCTC Championship, 3:00pm at RIT in Rochester

SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 26, 2009

Swimming Breaks Records at NESCAC Finals

Women's Swimming Finishes Sixth in the NESCAC Finals at Bowdoin College; Whitney Rosenbaum '10 Takes Home Three School Records

by Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

Last weekend, the women's swimming and diving team made the eight-plus hour drive to Bowdoin to compete in the NESCAC (New England Small College Athletic Conference) Championships. After several victories in regular-season dual meets, the Continentals were prepared to take on talented competition from the 11 participating NESCAC schools.

The women's meet was held at Bowdoin's Leroy Greason Pool from Feb. 20 to Feb 23. The Williams College Ephs finished first in the competition with 1827.5 points, followed closely by the Amherst Jeffs, who scored 1429.5 points. The Continentals racked up 829.5 points, in a narrow loss to Tufts, Middlebury and Colby, who tallied1145.5 points, 1047 points and 886 points, respectively.

The Continentals ended the meet with a handful of broken records and personal bests. Whitney Rosenbaum '10 chalked up 73 individual points, making her the 19th highest point-scorer out of all qualifying competitors. Rosenbaum also took home two new personal bests and Hamilton records: a speedy 26.59 second finish in the 50-yard butterfly and a 58.54 second record in the 100-yard butterfly Rosenbaum teamed with Liz Bucceri '11, Kylie Fraser '11 and Megan Gibbons '12 in the 800-yard freestyle relay for a sixth place finish at 7:49.87. The previous school record, set in 1995, was almost six seconds slower at 7:55.35.

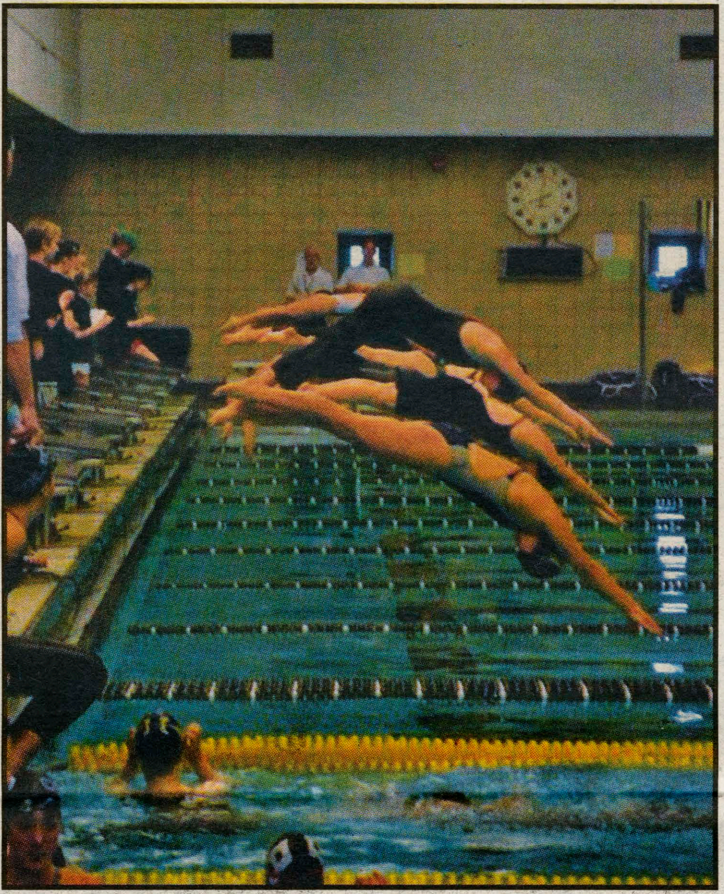

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAKENNA PERRY '12; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS EATON '11

Swimmers take off in Bowdoin's Leroy Greason Pool.

Rebecca Richards, one of four team coaches, described how the swimmers fine-tuned their skills in preparation for the meet: "We had been working really hard on being tough and committing to the race from the word GO! Being aggressive on the first half of the race is a brave move to make but one all the swimmers are capable of doing."

Richards, who is also the newest member of the swimming staff, joined as a former athlete and coach from the United Kingdom. "It is very humbling to know that there are 47 athletes on our roster that turn up every single day, commit to four hours in the water a day, purely because they love the sport," she said. "To me we are a very lucky bunch of coaches!"

"I have been truly amazed at the improvement from both the swimmers and divers over the course of the season so far," she continued, "Our freshmen, particularly, have made vast improvements, many of them swimming season bests on most weekends. Tom Cyran '12, James Crafa '12, Jeanie Folan '12 and Lizzy Buhl '12 have all swum excellently as of recent."

She also commented on her adjustment to Hamilton athletics: "I was overwhelmed with how polite and forthcoming the team was. Of course I was expecting the relentless mockery of my British accent, which three months down the line hasn't ceased to amuse them! Aside from the various imitations on how to say 'vitamins,' I saw very quickly how close the team is and what a great relationship they have with one another."

With strong leadership and inspiration from its coaching staff as well as new hope found in broken records and clutch performances from skilled underclassmen members, the team ended another phenomenal season. They have every reason to believe they perform similarly, if not even better, next year.

The men's team is slated to compete in the NESCAC finals this weekend, Feb. 27 to Mar. 1. The NESCAC men's competition will be held at Wesleyan College in Middleton, Connecticut.

Women's Basketball Team Falls Short of Playoff Spot

by Daniel Hagemeier '12
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team ended its season with back-to-back losses on the road against Skidmore and Union College on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21. Coach Mackin's team headed into the games tied for the No. 4 seed for the playoffs with Skidmore and William Smith College.

The team allowed a season-high of 74 points in the loss to Skidmore. Sydney Fasulo '09 led the team in points with 20, 18 of which she scored in the first half. The Continentals tied the game with 12:30 minutes to go in the second half but later fell behind by as many as 17 points, giving the game away. The finals score was 74-59.

Only one day later, the team committed 25 turnovers in the last game of the season and lost 44-48 to Union College. Molly Kane '09 led the team in points with 10. The women's basketball team fought well and hard to reach the playoffs, but only got as close as two points to tying the game in the second half. In the end, two Union College free throws dashed the Continentals' post-season hopes.

However, Coach Mackin's reaction after the game was still positive.

"The loss is disappointing obviously. This was a very special group. We were so close to a playoff spot. But, we played the first place team at their place on senior day and lost by 4. We fought back the whole way. The game was a classic and came down to the last thirty seconds."

Cate Schafer '10, one of the team captains, showed a similar response. She admitted that the team had several chances to clinch a playoff spot but was still proud of the accomplishments of the team.

Indeed, the team's season was impressive and only needed some luck to be even more successful. The chances for a playoff qualification were made possible by five wins in the last six games, including three road games. The Continentals won four in a row, beating Clarkson, Rensselaer, and Vassar on the road, before beating Clarkson again at home. Despite a loss on Feb. 14 to visiting St. Lawrence, the team showed great morale and won three days later against fellow playoff contender William Smith before ultimately coming up short for the qualification. Accordingly, Mackin's season review was positive overall:

"We accomplished a lot of good things. We led the league in field goal percentage defense and were second in field goal percentage offense. We were picked as the fourth place team in the league and a playoff spot came down to the last game of the season. That is a great position to be in and even though we just missed an opportunity, I am very proud of the team."

The planning and preparation for next season will start soon. The team will lose seven graduating seniors: Sydney Fasulo, Molly Kane, Sarah Schrader, Meg LaVangie, Laure Wetmore, Kara Labs and Madelyn McGuinnis.

"I still expect us to be very competitive next year," said Mackin, "We have five returning starters, so there is no reason why we shouldn't aim for Liberty Leagues again. We will have to clean up our offense, the area where we struggled the most this year, but our defense was and will continue to be solid."

Coach Mackin added that "we need to score easier baskets and we will put a major emphasis on running. Our players will need to be in great shape. How hard our players work between now and November will answer a lot of questions."

When asked about the biggest improvement to the previous season, both Mackin and Schafer stated "teamwork." It is the most important element for a successful season 2009-10.

PHOTO BY JASON MARIASIS '12

Sarah Schrader '09 during a home game against Union College.